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| United States Patent | 12395715 |
| Kind Code | B2 |
| Date of Patent | August 19, 2025 |
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Camera, accessory apparatus, communication control method, and storage medium that changes a content of communication error processing according to a type of error by switching a specific accessory apparatus in a predetermined order

Abstract

A camera is operable while connected to a plurality of accessory apparatus. The camera is configured to control communication with the plurality of accessory apparatus using a notification channel for notification with the plurality of accessory apparatus and a data communication channel for data communication with the plurality of accessory apparatus. The camera is configured to perform first communication for simultaneous communication with the plurality of accessory apparatus using the data communication channel, and second communication for individual communication with a specific accessory apparatus among the plurality of accessory apparatus using the data communication channel. The camera is configured to change a content of communication error processing according to a type of error when detecting the error based on information that is used to detect the error included in a data packet in performing the second communication by switching the specific accessory apparatus in a predetermined order.

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| Appl. No.: | 18/490222 |
| Filed: | October 19, 2023 |

Prior Publication Data

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Document Identifier | Publication Date |
| US 20240163535 A1 | May. 16, 2024 |

Foreign Application Priority Data

JP 2022-182013 Nov. 14, 2022

Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: H04N5/335 (20110101); H04N23/51 (20230101); H04N23/55 (20230101); H04N23/60 (20230101); H04N23/663 (20230101); H04N23/80 (20230101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC H04N23/51 (20230101); H04N23/55 (20230101); H04N23/663 (20230101); H04N23/665 (20230101); H04N23/80 (20230101);

Field of Classification Search

CPC: H04N (23/665)

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Background/Summary

BACKGROUND

Technical Field

(1) One of the aspects of the disclosure relates to a communication control technology between an image pickup apparatus (referred to as a camera hereinafter) and an accessory apparatus attached to it.

Description of Related Art

(2) The camera, interchangeable lenses, and accessory apparatus such as an intermediate adapter operate as a camera system while they communicate with each other. Japanese Patent No. 6427287 discloses a camera system that can perform broadcast communication in which a camera simultaneously communicates with a plurality of accessory apparatus, and Peer-to-Peer (P2P) communication in which a camera designates a specific accessory apparatus and individually communicates with this specific accessory apparatus. Even in a case where a plurality of accessory

apparatus are attached to a camera, the camera can communicate with an arbitrary accessory apparatus using these communication methods.

(3) In order for the camera to perform P2P communication with a specific accessory apparatus in the camera system disclosed in Japanese Patent No. 6427287, communication specifying the specific accessory apparatus is first performed, and then communication for switching a communication method and a communication direction, etc. is to be performed. Therefore, communications other than the P2P communication take a longer time than the P2P communication. As a result, it is necessary to restrict communication with another accessory apparatus or reduce the communication frequency with a specific accessory apparatus in order to secure communication between a camera and a specific accessory apparatus at a desired timing.

(4) If it takes a long time to process minor errors that do not cause communication failure in the P2P communication, communication with a specific accessory apparatus at desired timing will be further delayed.

SUMMARY

(5) A camera according to one aspect of the disclosure is operable while a plurality of accessory apparatus are connected to the camera. The camera includes a memory device that stores a set of instructions, and at least one processor that executes the instructions to control communication with the plurality of accessory apparatus using a notification channel for notification with the plurality of accessory apparatus and a data communication channel for data communication with the plurality of accessory apparatus, perform first communication for simultaneous communication with the plurality of accessory apparatus using the data communication channel, and second communication for individual communication with a specific accessory apparatus among the plurality of accessory apparatus using the data communication channel, and change a content of communication error processing according to a type of error in a case where the camera processor detects the error based on information that is used to detect the error included in a data packet in performing the second communication by switching the specific accessory apparatus in a predetermined order. A communication control method corresponding to the above camera also constitutes another aspect of the embodiment. A storage medium storing a program that causes a computer to execute the above communication control method also constitutes another aspect of the embodiment.

(6) An accessory apparatus according to another aspect of the disclosure is connectable to a camera that is operable while a plurality of accessory apparatus are connected to the camera. The accessory apparatus includes a memory device that stores a set of instructions, and at least one processor that executes the instructions to control communication with the camera using a notification channel for notification with the camera and a data communication channel for data communication with the camera, perform first communication for simultaneous communication from the camera to the plurality of accessory apparatus using the data communication channel, and second communication for individual communication with the camera using the data communication channel, and change a content of communication error processing according to a type of error in a case where the accessory processor detects the error based on information that is used to detect the error included in a data packet in performing the second communication with the camera according to a predetermined order for switching between specific accessory apparatus that perform the second communication with the camera among the plurality of accessory apparatus. A communication control method corresponding to the above accessory apparatus also constitutes another aspect of the embodiment. A storage medium storing a program that causes a computer to execute the above communication control method also constitutes another aspect of the embodiment.

(7) Further features of the disclosure will become apparent from the following description of 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 a first embodiment.
- (2) FIG. 2 illustrates a communication circuit in the camera system according to the first embodiment.
- (3) FIG. 3 illustrates a format of data transmitted and received in the first embodiment.
- (4) FIG. 4 illustrates signal waveforms in broadcast communication according to the first embodiment.
- (5) FIG. 5 illustrates signal waveforms in party specified communication according to the first embodiment.
- (6) FIG. 6 illustrates signal waveforms in switching communication methods according to the first embodiment.
- (7) FIGS. 7A and 7B are flowcharts illustrating broadcast communication processing according to the first embodiment.
- (8) FIGS. 8A and 8B are flowcharts illustrating party specified communication processing according to the first embodiment.
- (9) FIG. 9 illustrates signal waveforms in time-division communication according to the first embodiment.
- (10) FIGS. 10A and 10B are flowcharts illustrating time-division communication processing according to the first embodiment.
- (11) FIG. 11 illustrates signal waveforms in switching a communication method to the time-division communication according to the first embodiment.
- (12) FIG. 12 illustrates characteristic information that the camera receives from the accessory in the first embodiment.
- (13) FIG. 13 illustrates setting information for the time-division communication determined based on the characteristic information according to the first embodiment.
- (14) FIGS. 14A and 14B are flowcharts illustrating processing for switching initial communication and a communication method for the time-division communication according to the first embodiment.
- (15) FIG. 15 illustrates an internal structure of a data packet according to the first embodiment.
- (16) FIG. 16 illustrates signal waveforms in data packets determined before the time-division communication according to the first embodiment.
- (17) FIG. 17 illustrates setting information for each of pre-change time-division communication and post-change time-division communication in the first embodiment.
- (18) FIG. 18 illustrates signal waveforms of setting information after the change according to the first embodiment.
- (19) FIGS. 19A and 19B are flowcharts illustrating processing for switching data packet structures during the time-division communication according to the first embodiment.
- (20) FIG. 20 illustrates characteristic information that a camera receives from an accessory according to a second embodiment.
- (21) FIG. 21 is a flowchart illustrating data packet size determination processing according to the second embodiment.
- (22) FIG. 22 illustrates a flow of determining the data packet size according to the second embodiment.
- (23) FIG. 23 illustrates setting information for time-division communication determined based on characteristic information according to the second embodiment.
- (24) FIG. 24 illustrates characteristic information that a camera receives from an accessory

according to a third embodiment.

(25) FIG. **25** is a flowchart illustrating data packet size determination processing according to a third embodiment.

(26) FIG. **26** illustrates a flow of determining the data packet size according to the third embodiment.

(27) FIG. **27** illustrates setting information for the time-division communication determined based on characteristic information according to the third embodiment.

(28) FIG. **28** is a flowchart illustrating processing for dividing and transmitting data during the time-division communication according to the third embodiment.

(29) FIG. **29** is a flowchart illustrating processing for dividing and receiving data during the time-division communication according to the third embodiment.

(30) FIG. **30** illustrates communication processing in a case where a periodic command includes a checksum error in a fourth embodiment.

(31) FIG. **31** illustrates communication processing in a case where a checksum error is included in an aperiodic command in the fourth embodiment.

(32) FIG. **32A** is a flowchart illustrating analysis processing of a received data packet executed by a camera microcomputer according to the fourth embodiment.

(33) FIG. **32B** is a flowchart illustrating analysis processing of a received data packet executed by a lens microcomputer according to the fourth embodiment.

(34) FIG. **33** illustrates processing in a case where there is an abnormality in the data packet destination in the fourth embodiment.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

(35) In the following, the term “unit” may refer to a software context, a hardware context, or a combination of software and hardware contexts. In the software context, the term “unit” refers to a functionality, an application, a software module, a function, a routine, a set of instructions, or a program that can be executed by a programmable processor such as a microprocessor, a central processing unit (CPU), or a specially designed programmable device or controller. A memory contains instructions or programs that, when executed by the CPU, cause the CPU to perform operations corresponding to units or functions. In the hardware context, the term “unit” refers to a hardware element, a circuit, an assembly, a physical structure, a system, a module, or a subsystem. Depending on the specific embodiment, the term “unit” may include mechanical, optical, or electrical components, or any combination of them. The term “unit” may include active (e.g., transistors) or passive (e.g., capacitor) components. The term “unit” may include semiconductor devices having a substrate and other layers of materials having various concentrations of conductivity. It may include a CPU or a programmable processor that can execute a program stored in a memory to perform specified functions. The term “unit” may include logic elements (e.g., AND, OR) implemented by transistor circuits or any other switching circuits. In the combination of software and hardware contexts, the term “unit” or “circuit” refers to any combination of the software and hardware contexts as described above. In addition, the term “element,” “assembly,” “component,” or “device” may also refer to “circuit” with or without integration with packaging materials.

(36) Referring now to the accompanying drawings, a description will be given of embodiments according to the disclosure.

First Embodiment

(37) FIG. **1** illustrates a camera system according to a first embodiment of the disclosure. The camera system includes a camera (image pickup apparatus) **200**, an interchangeable lens **100**, and an intermediate adapter **300** mounted between the camera **200** and the interchangeable lens **100**. The interchangeable lens **100** and intermediate adapter **300** serve as an accessory apparatus connected to a camera **200** that is operable while a plurality of accessory apparatus are connected (attached) to the camera. Attachment to the camera **200** here includes not only direct connection to

the camera **200** but also indirect connection via an accessory apparatus such as an intermediate adapter **300**. In other words, it may be communicably connected to the camera **200**. A plurality of intermediate adapters may be attached between the camera **200** and the interchangeable lens **100**.

(38) Control commands and internal information are communicated among the camera **200**, the interchangeable lens **100**, and the intermediate adapter **300** via their respective communication units. Among the camera **200**, the interchangeable lens **100**, and the intermediate adapter **300**, communication (first communication) using the broadcast communication method and communication (second communication) using the P2P communication method are performed.

(39) The broadcast communication method is a communication method for one-to-many communication (simultaneous communication) in which data is simultaneously transmitted from the camera **200** as a communication master to each accessory apparatus as a communication slave. In the following description, communication based on the broadcast communication method will be referred to as broadcast communication. The P2P communication method is a communication method in which the camera **200** as a communication master performs one-to-one communication with one accessory apparatus serving as a communication slave as a communication party (communication entity, specific accessory apparatus).

(40) The P2P communication method includes two communication methods. One communication method requires the specification (designation) of a communication party (partner or counterpart) each time the camera **200** switches the communication party. The communication method does not require the specification of the communication party and switches the communication party with the camera **200** in a predetermined order. In the following description, communication using the communication method that requires the specification of a communication party will be referred to as party specified communication, and communication using the communication method in which communication parties are switched in order will be referred to as time-division communication. The party specified communication and time-division communication will be collectively referred to as P2P communication.

(41) In party specified communication, the camera **200** transmits information specifying (designating) a communication party to each accessory apparatus by broadcast communication. In time-division communication, the camera **200** transmits information such as the order of accessory apparatus serving as communication parties and a communication direction to each accessory apparatus by broadcast communication.

(42) When P2P communication is started, the communication party of the camera **200** is notified to each accessory apparatus. Thus, in P2P communication, the camera **200** does not need to send information for identifying the communication party to each accessory apparatus. Specifying a communication party with the camera **200** through broadcast communication and then shifting to P2P communication with that communication party can improve a communication speed in P2P communication.

(43) Party specified communication is to specify the next communication party in broadcast communication whenever the communication party is switched, but the camera **200** can select an arbitrary communication party according to the situation. Time-division communication can further improve the communication speed because the switching timing of the communication party and communication direction has already been determined and the time required to specify a communication party can be saved, although the degree of freedom in selecting a communication party is lower than party specified communication.

(44) <Configuration of Camera System>

(45) The intermediate adapter **300** is mechanically and electrically connected to the camera **200** via a mount **401** as a coupling mechanism. The intermediate adapter **300** receives power from the camera **200** via an unillustrated power supply terminal provided on the mount **401**, and operates an adapter microcomputer (MICRO-COMP) **302** as an accessory control unit.

(46) The interchangeable lens **100** is mechanically and electrically connected to the intermediate

adapter **300** via a mount **400** as a coupling mechanism. The interchangeable lens **100** receives power from the camera **200** via an unillustrated power terminal provided on the mount **400** and a power terminal provided on the mount **401** described above. The interchangeable lens **100** that receives power from the camera **200** operates various actuators and a lens microcomputer **111**, which will be described below. The interchangeable lens **100**, the intermediate adapter **300**, and the camera **200** communicate with one another via communication terminals (which will be described below) provided on the mounts **400** and **401**, respectively.

(47) The interchangeable lens **100** includes an imaging optical system. The imaging optical system includes, in order from an object OBJ side, a field lens **101**, a magnification varying lens **102** for magnification variation, an aperture (stop) unit **114** for adjusting a light amount, an image stabilizing lens **103** for image stabilization, and a focus lens **104** for performing focusing.

(48) The magnification varying lens **102** and focus lens **104** are held by lens holding frames **105** and **106**, respectively. The lens holding frames **105** and **106** are guided by unillustrated guide shafts so as to be movable in the optical axis direction indicated by a broken line in FIG. **1**, and are driven by stepping motors **107** and **108** in the optical axis direction, respectively. The stepping motors **107** and **108** respectively move the magnification varying lens **102** and the focus lens **104** in synchronization with the driving pulse.

(49) The image stabilizing lens **103** reduces (corrects) image blur caused by camera shake such as manual shake by moving in a direction orthogonal to the optical axis of the imaging optical system.

(50) The lens microcomputer **111** is an accessory control unit configured to control the operation of each component in the interchangeable lens **100**. The lens microcomputer **111** receives a control command transmitted from the camera **200** via a lens communication unit (COMM) **112** as an accessory communication unit, and receives a transmission request for lens data. The lens microcomputer **111** performs lens control corresponding to the control command, and transmits the lens data corresponding to the transmission request to the camera **200** via the lens communication unit **112**.

(51) The lens microcomputer **111** outputs a driving signal to a zoom driving circuit (DR CIR) **119** and a focus driving circuit (DR CIR) **120** in accordance with a command relating to magnification variation and focusing among the control commands to drive the stepping motors **107** and **108**. Thereby, zoom processing for controlling the magnification varying operation by the magnification varying lens **102** and autofocus (AF) processing for controlling the focusing operation by the focus lens **104** are performed.

(52) The aperture unit **114** has aperture blades **114a** and **114b**. Positions of the aperture blades **114a** and **114b** are detected by a Hall element **115** and input to the lens microcomputer **111** via an amplifier circuit **122** and an A/D conversion circuit **123**. The lens microcomputer **111** outputs a driving signal to an aperture driving circuit (DR CIR) **121** based on the input signal from the A/D conversion circuit **123** to drive an aperture actuator **113**. Thereby, a light amount adjusting operation by the aperture unit **114** is controlled.

(53) The lens microcomputer **111** drives an image stabilizing actuator **126** via an image stabilizing driving circuit (DR CIR) **125** in accordance with the vibration detected by an unillustrated vibration sensor such as a vibration gyroscope provided in the interchangeable lens **100**. Thereby, image stabilizing processing for controlling the shift operation of the image stabilizing lens **103** is performed.

(54) The intermediate adapter **300** is an extender for extending a focal length of the interchangeable lens **100** in this embodiment. The intermediate adapter **300** is not limited to an extender, and can use those having various functions. For example, the intermediate adapter **300** may have a built-in filter that changes the transmittance of light transmitting through the interchangeable lens **100**. This intermediate adapter **300** may have a plurality of internal filters with different light transmittances and be able to select a proper filter according to an imaging situation or the like.

(55) The intermediate adapter **300** includes a magnification varying lens **301** configured to extend

the focal length of the interchangeable lens **100** and an adapter microcomputer **302** as accessory control unit configured to control the operation of each part in the intermediate adapter **300**. The adapter microcomputer **302** receives a control command transmitted from the camera **200** via an adapter communication unit (COMM) **303** as an accessory communication unit, and performs adapter control corresponding to the control command. The adapter microcomputer **302** also transmits adapter data corresponding to a transmission request from the camera **200** to the camera **200** via the adapter communication unit **303**.

(56) The camera **200** includes an image sensor **201** such as a CCD sensor or CMOS sensor, an A/D conversion circuit **202**, a signal processing circuit **203**, a recorder (REC) **204**, a camera microcomputer **205**, and a display unit **206**.

(57) The image sensor **201** photoelectrically converts an object image formed by the imaging optical system in the interchangeable lens **100** and outputs an electric signal (analog signal). The A/D conversion circuit **202** converts an analog signal from the image sensor **201** into a digital signal. The signal processing circuit **203** performs various image processing for the digital signal from the A/D conversion circuit **202** to generate a video signal.

(58) The signal processing circuit **203** generates focus information indicating a contrast state of an object image, that is, a focus state of the imaging optical system, and luminance information indicating an exposure state from the video signal. The signal processing circuit **203** outputs the video signal to the display unit **206**, and the display unit **206** displays the video signal as a live-view image for checking the composition, focus state, and the like.

(59) The camera microcomputer **205** as a camera control unit controls the camera **200** according to an input from a camera operation member such as an imaging instruction switch and various setting switches (not illustrated). The camera microcomputer **205** transmits a control command relating to the magnification varying operation of the magnification varying lens **102** to the lens microcomputer **111** via the camera communication unit **208** in accordance with the operation of an unillustrated zoom switch. The camera microcomputer **205** transmits to the lens microcomputer **111** via the camera communication unit **208** a control command relating to the light amount adjusting operation of the aperture unit **114** according to the luminance information and the focusing operation of the focus lens **104** according to the focus information.

(60) The camera microcomputer **205** simultaneously transmits data to the intermediate adapter **300** and the interchangeable lens **100** in broadcast communication, and performs one-to-one data communication with either the intermediate adapter **300** or the interchangeable lens **100** in P2P communication.

(61) <Configuration of Communication Circuit>

(62) Referring now to FIG. 2, a description will be given of a communication circuit configured in a camera system including the camera **200**, the intermediate adapter **300**, and the interchangeable lens **100**. The communication circuit includes a notification channel (first communication channel) CS that is used for notification of a communication timing, a communication party, a communication direction, etc. and a data communication channel (second communication channel) DATA that is used for data communication.

(63) The camera **200** and the intermediate adapter **300** are connected via the mount **401** as described in FIG. 1. The mount **401** is provided with at least two communication terminals. The intermediate adapter **300** and the interchangeable lens **100** are connected via a mount **400**. The mount **400** is provided with at least two communication terminals. The notification channel CS and the data communication channel DATA are formed through communication terminals provided on each mount.

(64) The notification channel CS is connected to the camera microcomputer **205**, the adapter microcomputer **302**, and the lens microcomputer **111**, and each microcomputer can detect a signal level (voltage level) of the notification channel CS. The notification channel CS is pull-up-connected to an unillustrated power source disposed in the camera **200**. The notification channel

CS can be grounded via a ground switch **2081** included in the camera **200** and grounded via a ground switch **3031** included in the intermediate adapter **300**. The notification channel CS can be grounded via a ground switch **1121** included in the interchangeable lens **100**.

(65) Due to this circuit configuration, any ground switch included in the camera **200**, the intermediate adapter **300**, and the interchangeable lens **100** can be set to a connected state (first setting) to set a signal level of the notification channel CS to a low level (first level). Setting all the ground switches included in the camera **200**, the intermediate adapter **300**, and the interchangeable lens **100** to a cutoff state (second setting) can set a signal level of the notification channel CS to a high level (second level).

(66) Each microcomputer can change the connection state between the notification channel CS and the ground by changing the connection state of the ground switch. In other words, each microcomputer can set a signal level of the notification channel CS to either a high level or a low level by changing the connection state of the ground switch.

(67) For example, the camera microcomputer **205** can set the signal level of the notification channel CS to a low level by connecting the ground switch **2081** included in the camera **200**. In the following description, connecting the ground switch will be described as “outputting Low (low level) to the notification channel CS,” and disconnecting the ground switch will be described as “outputting High to the notification channel CS.”

(68) That is, in a case where all microcomputers output High to the notification channel CS, the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes high. In a case where one of the microcomputers outputs Low to the notification channel CS, the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes low. The role of the notification channel CS during data communication will be described below.

(69) The data communication channel DATA is a bidirectional data communication channel that can switch a data propagation direction. The data notification channel DATA is connected to the camera microcomputer **205**, the adapter microcomputer **302**, and the lens microcomputer **111**.

(70) The data communication channel DATA is connected to the camera microcomputer **205** via an input/output (I/O) switch included in the camera **200**. The camera microcomputer **205** includes a data output unit for transmitting data and a data input unit for receiving data. The camera microcomputer **205** selectively connects the data communication channel DATA to one of the data output unit and the data input unit according to the operation of the input/output switch **2082**.

(71) The data communication channel DATA is connected to the adapter microcomputer **302** via an input/output switch **3032** included in the intermediate adapter **300**. The adapter microcomputer **302** includes a data output unit for transmitting data and a data input unit for receiving data. The adapter microcomputer **302** selectively connects the data communication channel DATA to one of the data output unit and the data input unit according to the operation of the input/output switch **3032**.

(72) The data communication channel DATA is connected to the lens microcomputer **111** via an input/output switch **1122** included in the interchangeable lens **100**. The lens microcomputer **111** includes a data output unit for transmitting data and a data input unit for receiving data. The lens microcomputer **111** selectively connects the data communication channel DATA to one of the data output unit and the data input unit according to the operation of the input/output switch **1122**. This circuit configuration can properly switch the data propagation direction (communication direction) of the data communication channel DATA.

(73) <Data Format>

(74) FIG. 3 illustrates a format of data communicated via the data communication channel DATA. The data format is illustrated in an asynchronous communication system in which the communication speed is preset for both the data transmission side and the data reception side, and data communication is performed at the communication bit rate based on this setting. The communication bit rate indicates a data amount that can be transferred in one second, and is expressed in units of bps (bits per second). FIG. 3 illustrates a signal waveform of one frame as the

minimum communication unit.

(75) The signal level of the data communication channel DATA is maintained at a high level in a case where data communication is not performed. Thereafter, in order to notify the data receiving side of the start of data transmission, the signal level of the data communication channel DATA is set to a low level for one bit period. This 1-bit period will be called a start bit ST, and a data frame starts from the start bit ST. 1-byte data is transmitted in an 8-bit period from the 2nd bit to the 9th bit following the start bit ST.

(76) The data bit array in Most Significant Bit (MSB) first format starts with the highest data D7, followed by data D6, D5, D4, . . . , D1, and ends with the lowest data D0. 1-bit parity information (PA) is added to the tenth bit, and the signal level of the data communication channel DATA is set to a high level during a period of a stop bit SP indicating the end of one frame. Thereby, the data frame period started from the start bit ST ends. The parity information need not be 1 bit, and a plurality of bits of parity information may be added. The parity information is not essential, and the format may have no parity information.

(77) The data bit array in Least Significant Bit (LSB) first format may start with the lowest data D0, followed by data D1, D2, D3, . . . D6, and ends with the highest data D7. In this embodiment, 1-byte data is transmitted in an 8-bit period, but 1-byte data may be transmitted in bit periods other than the 8-bit period.

(78) <Broadcast Communication>

(79) FIG. 4 illustrates waveforms of signals transmitted and received in broadcast communication. In broadcast communication, the camera **200** (camera microcomputer **205**) as the communication master outputs Low to the notification channel CS to notify the interchangeable lens **100** (lens microcomputer **111**) and the intermediate adapter **300** (adapter microcomputer **302**) as communication slaves of the start of broadcast communication. Next, the camera microcomputer **205** transmits data to the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** via the data communication channel DATA.

(80) The lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** output Low to the notification channel CS upon detecting the start bit ST via the data communication channel DATA. Since the camera microcomputer **205** has outputted Low in a case where the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** output Low to the notification channel CS, the signal level of the notification channel CS remains Low.

(81) The lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** notify the camera microcomputer **205** of the communication standby request by outputting Low to the notification channel CS. The communication standby request is to temporarily stop the communication in the camera system, and the presence or absence of the communication standby request is determined according to the signal level of the notification channel CS.

(82) The camera microcomputer **205** outputs High to the notification channel CS after transmitting all data. The lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** receive the stop bit SP transmitted from the data communication channel DATA, and then analyze the received data and perform internal processing corresponding to the received data. Thereafter, the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** output High to the notification channel CS in response to the preparation for executing the next communication.

(83) The signal level of the notification channel CS becomes high in a case where all components of the camera system output High to the notification channel CS. The camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** can confirm that the signal level of the notification channel CS has returned to a high level, and that each component constituting the camera system is ready for the next communication.

(84) In FIG. 4, the data transmitted by the camera microcomputer **205** includes a transmission request command to the adapter microcomputer **302**, and the data transmission by the adapter microcomputer **302** follows the data transmission by the camera microcomputer **205**. More

specifically, after the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes high, the adapter microcomputer **302** outputs Low to the notification channel CS. Thereby, the adapter microcomputer **302** notifies the lens microcomputer **111** and the camera microcomputer **205** of the start of broadcast communication. Next, the adapter microcomputer **302** transmits data to the lens microcomputer **111** and the camera microcomputer **205** via the data communication channel DATA.

(85) The lens microcomputer **111** and the camera microcomputer **205** output Low to the notification channel CS upon detecting the start bit ST via the data communication channel DATA. Since the adapter microcomputer **302** has outputted Low to the notification channel CS when the lens microcomputer **111** and the camera microcomputer **205** output Low to the notification channel CS, the signal level of the notification channel CS remains low.

(86) After transmitting all the data, the adapter microcomputer **302** outputs High to the notification channel CS. After receiving the stop bit SP transmitted from the data communication channel DATA, the lens microcomputer **111** and the camera microcomputer **205** analyze the received data and perform internal processing corresponding to the received data. Thereafter, the lens microcomputer **111** and the camera microcomputer **205** output High to the notification channel CS in response to the preparation for executing the next communication.

(87) The signal level of the notification channel CS becomes high in a case where all components constituting the camera system output High to the notification channel CS. The camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** confirm that the signal level of the notification channel CS has returned to a high level, and that each component constituting the camera system is ready for the next communication.

(88) As described above, in broadcast communication, the data transmission side outputs Low to the notification channel CS to change the signal level of the notification channel CS from High to Low, thereby notifying the data reception side of the start of broadcast communication. The data receiving side notifies each component of the camera system of cancellation of the communication standby request by changing the output to the notification channel CS from Low to High.

(89) The broadcast communication illustrated in FIG. **4** is merely illustrative, and other broadcast communications may be performed. For example, the data transmitted and received in single broadcast communication may be multi-byte data instead of 1-byte data.

(90) In switching the communication method from broadcast communication to P2P communication, data for instructing switching of the communication method is transmitted from the camera microcomputer **205** to the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302**.

(91) <Party Specified Communication>

(92) FIG. **5** illustrates waveforms of signals transmitted and received in party specified communication of P2P communication. In party specified communication, the camera **200** (camera microcomputer **205**) as a communication master individually communicates with a single component selected (designated) as a communication slave among the components (interchangeable lens **100** and intermediate adapter **300**) in the camera system. FIG. **5** illustrates a case where the interchangeable lens **100** (lens microcomputer **111**) is selected as a communication slave (specific accessory apparatus).

(93) Information indicating a communication slave in party specified communication is transmitted by broadcast communication. In party specified communication, the data transmission side does not output Low to the notification channel CS, and transmits data to the data reception side while maintaining the notification channel CS high. That is, in party specified communication, a voltage level of the notification channel CS during data transmission from the camera microcomputer **205** to the lens microcomputer **111** and the intermediate adapter **300** (adapter microcomputer **302**) is made different from that in broadcast communication.

(94) In a case where switching from broadcast communication to party specified communication is executed, data transmission from the camera microcomputer **205**, as a communication master to the

lens microcomputer **111** is first started. FIG. 5 illustrates an example in which 2-byte data is transmitted from the lens microcomputer **111** to the camera microcomputer **205** after 1-byte data is transmitted from the camera microcomputer **205** to the lens microcomputer **111**. The camera microcomputer **205** transmits data to the lens microcomputer **111** via the data communication channel DATA. In a case where the data transmission is completed, the camera microcomputer **205** outputs Low to the notification channel CS to notify the communication standby request. Then, the camera microcomputer **205** outputs High to the notification channel CS again after completing the preparation for receiving data as the data receiving side.

(95) The lens microcomputer **111** recognizes that the data transmission from the camera microcomputer **205** is completed by the fact that the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes low, analyzes the received data, and performs internal processing corresponding to the received data. In the example of FIG. 5, the data received from the camera microcomputer **205** includes a data transmission request from the lens microcomputer **111** to the camera microcomputer **205**, and the lens microcomputer **111** generates data to be transmitted to the camera microcomputer **205**.

(96) Thereafter, the lens microcomputer **111** recognizes that the communication standby request has been canceled because the signal level of the notification channel CS returns to a high level, and transmits 2-byte data to the camera microcomputer **205**. In a case where the data transmission is completed, the lens microcomputer **111** outputs Low to the notification channel CS to notify the communication standby request. The lens microcomputer **111** outputs High to the notification channel CS again after completing the preparation for receiving data as the data receiving side. The adapter microcomputer **302** that is not selected as a communication party in party specified communication does not change the output to the notification channel CS or does not participate in data transmission and reception.

(97) The lens microcomputer **111** determines whether party specified communication is continuing or switching to broadcast communication is performed based on the data transmission timing from the camera microcomputer **205** after outputting High to the notification channel CS again. If receiving data from the camera microcomputer **205** while the signal level of the notification channel CS remains high, the lens microcomputer **111** determines that the party specified communication is continuing. If receiving data from the camera microcomputer **205** after the signal level of the notification channel CS has changed to a low level, the lens microcomputer **111** determines that the party specified communication has been switched to broadcast communication.

(98) As described above, in party specified communication, the data transmission side notifies the data reception side that the data transmission side has completed data transmission by changing the output to the notification channel CS from High to Low. Therefore, in party specified communication, a plurality of data frames can be continuously transmitted until the data transmission side changes the signal level of the notification channel CS. Since the communication configuration is not such that communication from a communication master is inserted whenever a communication slave transmits one data frame, high-speed communication can be secured between the camera microcomputer **205** and the accessory apparatus such as the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302**.

(99) In this camera system, the camera microcomputer **205**, lens microcomputer **111**, and adapter microcomputer **302** switch the notification channel CS between Low and High so that the signal level of the notification channel CS can be changed after data transmission. This change in the signal level of the notification channel CS is used as a signal for switching between the data transmission side and the data reception side. The data transmission side notifies a communication standby request by maintaining the signal level of the notification channel CS low until the data reception preparation as the data reception side in the next communication is completed.

(100) <Switching Between Broadcast Communication and Party Specified Communication>

(101) FIG. 6 illustrates waveforms of signals in a case where broadcast communication and party

specified communication are switched and executed. In both broadcast communication and party specified communication, the camera (CAM) **200** (camera microcomputer **205**) becomes the communication master and communicates with the intermediate adapter (ADPTR) **300** (adapter microcomputer **302**) and the interchangeable lens (LENS) **100** (lens microcomputer **111**). Information indicating the communication party for the camera microcomputer **205** in party specified communication is notified in broadcast communication.

(102) First, information indicating that the adapter microcomputer **302** has been selected as a communication party in party specified communication is transmitted and received in broadcast communication, and then party specified communication is performed between the camera microcomputer **205** and the adapter microcomputer **302**. Information indicating a communication party in party specified communication will be hereinafter referred to as communication party specified data. A description will now be given of communication party specified data that has a function as a command for switching from broadcast communication to party specified communication. Party specified communication may be switched by transmitting and receiving a signal instructing switching from broadcast communication to party specified communication separately from communication party specified data.

(103) The lens microcomputer **111** that is not selected as a communication party in party specified communication outputs High to the notification channel CS when the analysis of the data received from the camera microcomputer **205** and internal processing are completed after receiving the communication party specified data. While party specified communication is being performed between the camera microcomputer **205** and the adapter microcomputer **302**, the setting corresponding to the broadcast communication is maintained without changing the output to the notification channel CS.

(104) In a case where the switching to party specified communication is completed, the adapter microcomputer **302** notifies the camera microcomputer **205** of the communication method switching completion by outputting High to the notification channel CS. The camera microcomputer **205** outputs High to the notification channel CS in a case where switching to party specified communication is completed. The lens microcomputer **111** that is not selected as a communication party in the party specified communication outputs High to the notification channel CS when analysis of data received from the camera microcomputer **205** and internal processing are completed.

(105) In a case where the camera microcomputer **205** detects that the signal level of the notification channel CS has become high, it starts the party specified communication illustrated in FIG. 5. An outline of communication in party specified communication is as explained in FIG. 5.

(106) In a case where the party specified communication between the camera microcomputer **205** and the adapter microcomputer **302** ends, the camera microcomputer **205** transmits communication party specified data indicating that the lens microcomputer **111** has been selected as the communication party in the party specified communication by broadcast communication. Thereafter, party specified communication is performed between the camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111**.

(107) The adapter microcomputer **302** recognizes that party specified communication has been switched to broadcast communication because the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes low before data is transmitted from the camera microcomputer **205**.

(108) <Broadcast Communication Processing>

(109) Flowcharts of FIGS. 7A and 7B illustrate broadcast communication processing executed by the camera microcomputer **205** as a communication master and the adapter microcomputer **302** as a communication slave. The camera microcomputer **205** and the adapter microcomputer **302** perform the processing illustrated in the flowcharts of FIGS. 7A and 7B according to computer programs. In FIGS. 7A and 7B and the flowcharts of other figures to be described below, “S” stands for the step. The broadcast communication processing executed by the lens microcomputer **111** is basically the

same as the broadcast communication processing executed by the adapter microcomputer **302**, and thus a description thereof is omitted.

(110) The camera microcomputer **205** determines whether an event to start broadcast communication has occurred in **S100**. The flow proceeds to **S101** in a case where the event to start broadcast communication has occurred, and repeats the determination of **S100** in a case where no event has occurred.

(111) In **S101**, the camera microcomputer **205** outputs Low to the notification channel CS to set a signal level of the notification channel CS to a low level, and notifies the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** of the start of broadcast communication.

(112) Next, in **S102**, the camera microcomputer **205** operates the input/output switch **2082** to connect the data communication channel DATA to the data output unit of the camera microcomputer **205**. data transmission is started in **S103**.

(113) Next, in **S104**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether or not the data transmitted in **S103** includes a transmission request command (bidirectional command (BIDI command)). The transmission request command is a command that requests the communication slave that has received data transmitted from the camera microcomputer **205** as the communication master to transmit data to the camera microcomputer **205**.

(114) In a case where the data transmitted from the camera microcomputer **205** in **S103** does not include the transmission request command, the flow proceeds to **S105**, and the camera microcomputer **205** stops outputting Low to the notification channel CS after data transmission from the camera microcomputer **205** is completed. Then, the flow proceeds to **S116**.

(115) In a case where the data transmitted from the camera microcomputer **205** in **S103** includes the transmission request command, the flow proceeds to **S106**. In **S106**, after data transmission from the camera microcomputer **205** is completed, the data communication channel DATA is connected to the data input unit of the camera microcomputer **205**, and the flow proceeds to **S107**. In **S107**, the camera microcomputer **205** stops outputting Low to the notification channel CS and outputs High.

(116) Next, in **S108**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether the signal level of the notification channel CS has become high. This determination continues until the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes high. In a case where the signal level of the notification channel CS is high, it indicates that the camera system is ready for communication. In a case where the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes high, the camera microcomputer **205** determines in **S109** whether the signal level of the notification channel CS has become low. This determination continues until the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes low.

(117) Communication from the adapter microcomputer **302** as the communication slave to the camera microcomputer **205** is started in a case where the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes low. The camera microcomputer **205** that has determined that the signal level of the notification channel CS has become low permits data reception in the data communication channel DATA in **S110**.

(118) Next, in **S111**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether or not a start bit included in the data transmitted from the adapter microcomputer **302** has been received. This determination continues until the start bit is received.

(119) In a case where the start bit is received, the flow proceeds to **S112** to output Low to the notification channel CS, and the camera microcomputer **205** determines in **S113** whether or not a stop bit has been received, that is, whether or not all data transmitted from the adapter microcomputer **302** has been received. This determination continues until the stop bit is received. Upon receiving the stop bit, the camera microcomputer **205** prohibits the reception of data in the data communication channel DATA in **S114**, analyzes the received data, and executes internal processing corresponding to the received data. Thereafter, in **S115**, the camera microcomputer **205** stops outputting Low to the notification channel CS and outputs High.

(120) Next, in **S116**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether the signal level of the notification channel CS has become high. This determination continues until the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes high. In a case where the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes high, the camera microcomputer **205** determines in **S117** whether or not the data transmitted in **S103** was communication party specified data. In a case where the data is communication party specified data, the flow proceeds to **S118** and the camera microcomputer **205** shifts to party specified communication. In a case where the data is not communication party specified data, the camera microcomputer **205** ends this flow.

(121) On the other hand, in **S200**, the adapter microcomputer **302** determines whether the signal level of the notification channel CS has become low. This determination continues until the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes low. Data transmission from the camera microcomputer **205** as the communication master is started in a case where the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes low. Therefore, in **S201**, the adapter microcomputer **302** permits data reception via the data communication channel DATA.

(122) Next, in **S202**, the adapter microcomputer **302** determines whether or not a start bit has been received. In a case where the start bit has not been received, the flow proceeds to **S203** and the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether the signal level of the notification channel CS is high.

(123) The reason why the adapter microcomputer **302** performs the processing of **S203** and **S204** is to handle a situation where party specified communication is performed between the camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** performs broadcast communication. In this situation, since the adapter microcomputer **302** does not receive data from the camera microcomputer **205**, the adapter microcomputer **302** prohibits data reception via the data communication channel DATA in **S204**.

(124) As explained using FIG. 5 in the section of <party specified communication>, the signal level of the notification channel CS changes between High and Low even in party specified communication. The signal level of the notification channel CS is normally high, and is set to a low level in notifying a communication standby request or notifying the start of communication in broadcast communication. In party specified communication, it is set to a low level in notifying a communication standby request.

(125) The adapter microcomputer **302** does not receive a start bit from the camera microcomputer **205** in **S202** in the following situations. The first situation is that data transmission has not been started after the camera microcomputer **205** has set the signal level of the notification channel CS to a low level. The second situation is that the camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** are performing party specified communication, and the adapter microcomputer **302** is not involved in the party specified communication.

(126) In the first situation, the signal level of the notification channel CS does not become high, so the flow returns from **S203** to **S202** and the adapter microcomputer **302** repeats the determinations of **S202** and **S203** until data transmission from the camera microcomputer **205** starts. In the second situation, either the camera microcomputer **205** or the lens microcomputer **111** does not notify the communication standby request and the signal level of the notification channel CS is high. In this situation, the flow basically proceeds from **S203** to **S204** and the adapter microcomputer **302** prohibits data reception via the data communication channel DATA. In the party specified communication, in a case where a communication standby request has been notified, the flow returns from **S203** to **S202** and the adapter microcomputer **302** makes the determination of **S203** again. Although the determination of **S203** may be performed multiple times, in a case where the communication standby request is canceled and the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes high, the flow proceeds from **S203** to **S204**.

(127) By adding the processing of **S203** and **S204** as described above, the camera system can use both broadcast communication and party specified communication. In this embodiment, while

party specified communication is performed between the camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111**, the adapter microcomputer **302** can be set to a standby state so as to handle broadcast communication.

(128) Upon receiving a start bit in **S202**, the adapter microcomputer **302** starts analyzing the received data and internal processing corresponding to the received data, and outputs Low to the notification channel CS. Thereby, a communication standby request is notified to each component in the camera system.

(129) Next, in **S206**, the adapter microcomputer **302** determines whether or not a stop bit has been received. This determination continues until the stop bit is received. Upon receiving the stop bit, the adapter microcomputer **302** prohibits data reception in the data communication channel DATA in **S207**, and continues analysis of the received data and internal processing corresponding to the received data. In a case where the internal processing of the data is completed and the next data communication can be executed, the adapter microcomputer **302** stops outputting Low to the notification channel CS and outputs High in **S208**.

(130) Next, in **S209**, the adapter microcomputer **302** determines whether the data received from the camera microcomputer **205** includes a transmission request command. In a case where the transmission request command is included, the flow proceeds to **S210** and the adapter microcomputer **302** determines whether or not the signal level of the notification channel CS has become high. This determination continues until the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes high. A high signal level of the notification channel CS means that the camera system is ready for communication. In a case where the data received from the camera microcomputer **205** does not include a transmission request command, the flow proceeds to **S215**, which will be described below.

(131) In a case where it is determined in **S210** that the signal level of the notification channel CS is high, the adapter microcomputer **302** proceeds to **S211**. In **S211**, the adapter microcomputer **302** notifies the camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** of the start of broadcast communication by outputting Low to the notification channel CS to set the signal level of the notification channel CS to a low level.

(132) Next, in **S212**, the adapter microcomputer **302** connects the data communication channel DATA to the data output unit of the adapter microcomputer **302** by operating the input/output switch **3032**. Then, in **S213**, data transmission is started.

(133) In a case where the data transmission is completed, the adapter microcomputer **302** stops outputting Low to the notification channel CS and outputs High in **S214**. Next, in **S215**, the adapter microcomputer **302** determines whether or not the signal level of the notification channel CS has become high. This determination continues until the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes high.

(134) In a case where the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes high, the flow proceeds to **S216**. In **S216**, the adapter microcomputer **302** determines whether the data received from the camera microcomputer **205** is communication party specified data and whether the adapter microcomputer **302** itself has been selected as the communication party of the camera microcomputer **205** in party designated communication. In a case where the adapter microcomputer **302** is selected as the communication party of the camera microcomputer **205**, the flow proceeds to **S217** and the adapter microcomputer **302** permits data reception in the data communication channel DATA. Next, in **S218**, the broadcast communication is shifted to party specified communication.

(135) In a case where the data received from the camera microcomputer **205** is not communication party specified data, or in a case where the adapter microcomputer **302** is not selected as the communication party in party specified communication, the adapter microcomputer **302** ends this flow without transferring to party specified communication.

(136) <Party Specified Communication Processing>

(137) Flowcharts of FIGS. **8A** and **8B** illustrate party specified communication processing executed

by the camera microcomputer **205** as a communication master and the lens microcomputer **111** as a communication slave. The camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** perform the processing illustrated in the flowcharts of FIGS. **8A** and **8B** according to computer programs. The party specified communication processing executed by the adapter microcomputer **302** is basically the same as the party specified communication processing executed by the lens microcomputer **111**, and a description thereof will be omitted.

(138) The camera microcomputer **205** determines whether an event to start party specified communication has occurred in **S300**. The flow proceeds to **S301** in a case where an event to start party specified communication has occurred, and the camera microcomputer **205** repeats the determination of **S300** in a case where no event has occurred.

(139) In **S301**, the camera microcomputer **205** connects the data communication channel DATA to the data output unit of the camera microcomputer **205** by operating the input/output switch **2082**. Next, the camera microcomputer **205** starts data transmission in **S302**.

(140) In **S303**, the camera microcomputer **205** outputs Low to the notification channel CS to set the signal level of the notification channel CS to a low level. Thereby, the camera microcomputer **205** issues a communication standby request to the lens microcomputer **111**, which is a communication slave. The lens microcomputer **111** does not transmit data to the camera microcomputer **205** while the signal level of the notification channel CS is low.

(141) In **S304**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether the data transmitted in **S302** includes a transmission request command (bidirectional (BIDI) command). The transmission request command is a command that requests the communication slave to transmit data to the camera microcomputer **205**. In a case where the transmission data does not include the transmission request command, the lens microcomputer **111** does not transmit the data. In this case, the flow proceeds from **S304** to **S305** and the camera microcomputer **205** confirms whether or not the lens microcomputer **111** has notified a communication standby request.

(142) More specifically, the camera microcomputer **205** stops outputting Low to the notification channel CS in **S305**, and then determines in **S306** whether the signal level of the notification channel CS is low. Thereby, it is determined whether or not the lens microcomputer **111** has set the signal level of the notification channel CS to a low level, that is, whether or not the lens microcomputer **111** has notified the communication standby request.

(143) Upon receiving data from the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111** notifies a communication standby request by outputting Low to the notification channel CS for a certain period in order to analyze the data and perform internal processing. **S306** is performed for recognizing the notification standby request of the lens microcomputer **111**. After **S305**, the signal level of the notification channel CS may temporarily become high. In this case, the camera microcomputer **205** waits until the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes low by making the determination of **S306**. After confirming that the signal level of the notification channel CS has become low in **S306**, the flow proceeds to **S311**.

(144) In **S304**, in a case where the data transmitted in **S302** includes a transmission request command, the flow proceeds to **S307**.

(145) In **S307**, the camera microcomputer **205** connects the data communication channel DATA to the data input unit of the camera microcomputer **205** by operating the input/output switch **2082**. In **S308**, the camera microcomputer **205** stops outputting Low to the notification channel CS and outputs High.

(146) The camera microcomputer **205** receives data from the lens microcomputer **111** while the signal level of the notification channel CS is high, and determines in **S309** whether the signal level of the notification channel CS has become low. The camera microcomputer **205** determines that the data transmission of the lens microcomputer **111** is completed because the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes low, and analyzes the data in **S310**.

(147) Next, in **S311**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether the signal level of the

notification channel CS has become high. This determination continues until the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes high. The high signal level of the notification channel CS means that the lens microcomputer **111** as a communication slave is ready for data communication.

(148) In a case where the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes high, the flow proceeds to **S312** and the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether an event to transfer to broadcast communication (BCST COMM event) has occurred. In a case where the event to transfer to broadcast communication occurs, the flow proceeds to **S313** and the camera microcomputer **205** transfers to broadcast communication (BCST COMM mode). In a case where no transfer event to broadcast communication has occurred, the camera microcomputer **205** continues the party specified communication.

(149) On the other hand, in a case where switching from broadcast communication to party specified communication is executed, the lens microcomputer **111** first receives data transmitted from the camera microcomputer **205**. While the data transmitted from the camera microcomputer **205** is being received, the signal level of the notification channel CS is kept high.

(150) In **S400**, the lens microcomputer **111** determines whether the signal level of the notification channel CS has become low. The lens microcomputer **111** determines that the data transmission of the camera microcomputer **205** is completed in a case where the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes low, and analyzes the data in **S401**.

(151) Next, in **S402**, the lens microcomputer **111** determines whether the signal level of the notification channel CS has become high. This determination continues until the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes high. The low signal level of the notification channel CS corresponds to a state in which the camera microcomputer **205** notifies a communication standby request.

(152) In a case where the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes high, the lens microcomputer **111** determines in **S403** whether or not the data received from the camera microcomputer **205** includes a transmission request command (bidirectional (BIDI) command). In a case where the received data does not include a transmission request command, the flow proceeds to **S404**.

(153) In **S404**, the lens microcomputer **111** sets the signal level of the notification channel CS to a low level and notifies the camera microcomputer **205** of the communication standby request in order to perform internal processing and the like for the data received from the camera microcomputer **205**. In a case where the lens microcomputer **111** becomes ready for communication, the lens microcomputer **111** sets the signal level of the notification channel CS to a high level in **S405** to cancel the communication standby request, and the flow proceeds to **S411**.

(154) In a case where the data received from the camera microcomputer **205** includes a transmission request command in **S403**, the flow proceeds to **S406**. In **S406**, the lens microcomputer **111** connects the data communication channel DATA to the data output unit of the lens microcomputer **111** by operating the input/output switch **1122**. Next, in **S407**, data transmission to the camera microcomputer **205** is started.

(155) In **S408** after the data transmission to the camera microcomputer **205** is completed, the lens microcomputer **111** outputs Low to the notification channel CS to set the signal level of the notification channel CS to a low level. Thereby, the lens microcomputer **111** issues a communication standby request to the camera microcomputer **205** as the communication master. The camera microcomputer **205** does not transmit data to the lens microcomputer **111** while the signal level of the notification channel CS is low.

(156) In **S409**, the lens microcomputer **111** connects the data communication channel DATA to the data input unit of the lens microcomputer **111** by operating the input/output switch **1122**. Next, in **S410**, the lens microcomputer **111** stops outputting Low to the notification channel CS and outputs High.

(157) In **S411**, the lens microcomputer **111** determines whether the signal level of the notification

channel CS has become high. This determination continues until the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes high. The high signal level of the notification channel CS corresponds to a state in which the camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** are communicable. (158) As described above, a voltage level of the notification channel CS during data transmission from the camera **200** to the interchangeable lens **100** and the intermediate adapter **300** is made different between broadcast communication and party specified communication. Due to this communication system, the camera **200** can select an arbitrary communication party according to the situation at that time, and communicate with the freely specified communication party until the communication party is to be changed.

(159) <Time-Division Communication>

(160) FIG. **9** illustrates waveforms of signals transmitted and received in time-division communication of P2P communications. In time-division communication, similarly to party specified communication, the camera **200** serves as a communication master, and performs one-to-one communication a single component selected as a communication slave among components in the camera system. In party specified communication, a communication party is specified by broadcast communication, and one-to-one communication can be performed with the same communication party without respecifying the communication party until it becomes necessary to switch the communication party. In a case where a plurality of accessory apparatus are connected to the camera **200**, the next communication party can be freely selected. However, in switching a communication party, party specified communication is to terminate the communication of the current communication party once, to specify the next communication party in broadcast communication, and then to start communication with that communication party. Therefore, it takes time to switch the communication party.

(161) On the other hand, in time-division communication, the timing of switching a communication party and a communication direction is predetermined. Therefore, although the communication party cannot be selected at an arbitrary timing, time-division communication can reduce the time required to switch the communication party.

(162) In FIG. **9**, the communication master is the camera **200**, and the communication slaves are the interchangeable lens **100** and the intermediate adapter **300**. In time-division communication, a basic communication period is determined, which is indicated by period T in FIG. **9**. For data transmitted and received through the data communication channel DATA, a transmitter, a receiver, the maximum number of data, the order, etc. are specifically determined in each communication period. Referring now to FIGS. **12** and **13**, a description will be given of determining the communication period, transmitter, receiver, maximum number of data, order, etc.

(163) In FIG. **9**, one or more data blocks transmitted by the camera **200** and received by the interchangeable lens **100** will be represented by “C.fwdarw.L.” An arrow “.fwdarw.” indicates a communication direction, and “C.fwdarw.L” and “L.fwdarw.C” indicate communication in one direction (from the camera **200** to the interchangeable lens **100**) and in the opposite direction (from the interchangeable lens **100** to the camera **200**) between camera **200** and interchangeable lens **100**, respectively.

(164) A data block in which such a transmitter, such as the camera **200**, and receiver, such as the interchangeable lens **100**, are fixed will be called a data packet hereinafter. A data packet transmitted by the interchangeable lens **100** and received by the camera **200** will be represented by “L.fwdarw.C,” and a data packet transmitted by the camera **200** and received by the intermediate adapter **300** will be represented by “C.fwdarw.A.” A data packet transmitted by the intermediate adapter **300** and received by the camera **200** will be represented by “A.fwdarw.C.” In this embodiment, “C.fwdarw.L” and “L.fwdarw.C” appear every period, but “C.fwdarw.A” and “A.fwdarw.C” appear once every two periods. Time-division communication can freely determine how many types of data packets appear in each period and in what periodical frequency they appear.

(165) The camera **200** is always either a transmitter or a receiver in each data packet of time-division communication, and thus FIG. **9** omits neither.

(166) Similarly to party specified communication, a data transmission side does not output Low to the notification channel CS and transmits data to a data reception side while maintaining the notification channel CS high. Using “C.fwdarw.L” and “L.fwdarw.C” as an example, the camera microcomputer **205** transmits data to the lens microcomputer **111** via the data communication channel DATA while keeping the notification channel CS high. In a case where the data packet transmission is completed, the camera microcomputer **205** sets the signal level of the notification channel CS to a low level and notifies the communication standby request. Next, the camera microcomputer **205** returns the signal level of the notification channel CS to a high level after completing the preparation for receiving data as the data receiving side.

(167) On the other hand, the lens microcomputer **111** recognizes that the data transmission from the camera microcomputer **205** is completed by the fact that the signal level of the notification channel CS becomes low, and analyzes the received data and performs internal processing corresponding to the received data. The lens microcomputer **111** generates data to be transmitted to the camera microcomputer **205** in the data packet “L.fwdarw.C.” Next, the lens microcomputer **111** recognizes that the communication standby request has been canceled in a case where the signal level of the notification channel CS returns to a high level, and transmits the data packet “L.fwdarw.C” to the camera microcomputer **205**. In a case where this transmission is completed, the lens microcomputer **111** sets the signal level of the notification channel CS to a low level and notifies the communication standby request. Next, the lens microcomputer **111** returns the signal level of the notification channel CS to a high level after completing preparations for receiving data as the data receiving side. During this period, the adapter microcomputer **302**, which is not involved in the one-to-one communication, does not affect the notification channel CS or the data communication channel DATA as the data receiving side. Even in a case where the transmitter and receiver are different, the transmission and reception operations are similarly performed as described above.

(168) The period T is controlled by the camera microcomputer **205**. In a case where the sum of the communication time of each data packet in one period, the communication waiting request time, and the waiting time that does not belong to any of them is less than the period T, the camera microcomputer **205** waits for communication until the next period starts.

(169) <Time-Division Communication Processing>

(170) Flowcharts of FIGS. **10A** and **10B** illustrate time-division communication processing (communication control methods) executed by the camera microcomputer **205** as a communication master and the lens microcomputer **111** as a communication slave. The camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** perform the processing illustrated in the flowcharts of FIGS. **10A** and **10B** according to computer programs. The party specified communication processing executed by the adapter microcomputer **302** is basically the same as the party specified communication processing executed by the lens microcomputer **111**, and a description thereof will be omitted. FIGS. **10A** and **10B** also omit a case where the camera **200** is neither a transmitter nor a receiver of time-division communication, as in FIG. **9**.

(171) In S**500**, the camera microcomputer **205** confirms whether the signal level of the notification channel CS is high, and the flow proceeds to S**501** in a case where it is high, and waits for it to become high in a case where it is low.

(172) In S**501**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether or not the camera microcomputer **205** is to transmit the next data packet, and if so, the flow proceeds to S**502**; otherwise, the flow proceeds to S**510**.

(173) In S**502**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether or not the period T as the communication period can be kept if the processing is continued as it is, and repeats the determination of S**502** to waits for processing in a case where the period T cannot be kept (or the

processing is too fast). In a case where a predetermined time has passed, the flow proceeds to **S503**. The camera microcomputer **205** waits in **S502** only in transmitting the first data packet of each period T in FIG. 9. In other cases, the camera microcomputer **205** determines that the period T can be kept and the flow proceeds to **S503**.

(174) In **S503**, the camera microcomputer **205** connects the data communication channel DATA to the data output unit of the camera microcomputer **205**, and starts data transmission in **S504**.

(175) In **S505**, the camera microcomputer **205** outputs Low to the notification channel CS to set the signal level of the notification channel CS to a low level. Thereby, the camera microcomputer **205** notifies the next data packet transmitter of the communication standby request.

(176) Thereafter, in **S506**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether or not the camera microcomputer **205** is to transmit the next data packet, and if so, the flow proceeds to **S507**.

(177) In **S507**, the camera microcomputer **205** generates a data packet for the next transmission. Next, in a case where the data packet to be transmitted is ready, the flow proceeds to **S508** to stop outputting Low to the notification channel CS.

(178) In a case where the camera microcomputer **205** determines in **S506** that the camera microcomputer **205** is not to transmit the next data packet (that is, the camera microcomputer **205** is to receive the next data packet), the flow proceeds to **S509**.

(179) In **S509**, the camera microcomputer **205** connects the data communication channel DATA to the data input unit of the camera microcomputer **205**, and then in **S508** stops outputting Low to the notification channel CS.

(180) After proceeding from **S501** to **S510**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether the signal level of the notification channel CS is low, repeats the determination in a case where the signal level is not low, and analyzes the received data in **S512** if the signal level is low.

(181) Next, in **S513**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether or not the camera microcomputer **205** is to transmit the next data packet, and if so, the flow proceeds to **S514**. If not (that is, the camera microcomputer **205** is to receive the next data packet), the flow proceeds to "END."

(182) In **S514**, the camera microcomputer **205** generates a data packet for the next transmission. At this time, since it is not the camera microcomputer **205** that sets the signal level of the notification channel CS to a low level, the camera microcomputer **205** does not stop outputting Low to the notification channel CS. Then, the flow proceeds to "END."

(183) "END" indicates the end of processing for a single data packet, and thereafter the camera microcomputer **205** returns to **S500** again and starts processing the next data packet.

(184) On the other hand, in **S600**, the lens microcomputer **111** confirms whether the signal level of the notification channel CS is high. In a case where it is high, the flow proceeds to **S601**, and in a case where it is low, the lens microcomputer **111** waits for it to become high.

(185) In **S601**, the lens microcomputer **111** determines whether or not the lens microcomputer **111** is to transmit the next data packet, and if so, the flow proceeds to **S603**; otherwise, the flow proceeds to **S610**.

(186) In **S603**, the lens microcomputer **111** connects the data communication channel DATA to the data output unit of the lens microcomputer **111**, and starts data transmission in **S604**.

(187) Next, in **S605**, the lens microcomputer **111** outputs Low to the notification channel CS to set the signal level of the notification channel CS to a low level. Thereby, the lens microcomputer **111** notifies the next data packet transmitter of a communication standby request.

(188) Next, in **S606**, the lens microcomputer **111** determines whether or not the lens microcomputer **111** is to transmit the next data packet, and if so, the flow proceeds to **S607**.

(189) In **S607**, the lens microcomputer **111** generates a data packet for the next transmission. In a case where the data packet to be transmitted is ready, the lens flow proceeds to **S608** and stops outputting Low to the notification channel CS.

(190) In a case where the lens microcomputer **111** has determined in **S606** that the lens

microcomputer **111** is not to transmit the next data packet, the flow proceeds to **S609** and the lens microcomputer **111** connects the data communication channel DATA to the data input unit of the lens microcomputer **111**. Next, the flow proceeds to **S608** to stop outputting Low to the notification channel CS.

(191) After proceeding from **S601** to **S610**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether or not the signal level of the notification channel CS is low in **S610**, and repeats this determination in a case where it is not low. If it is low, the flow proceeds to **S611**.

(192) In **S611**, the lens microcomputer **111** determines whether the lens microcomputer **111** is currently receiving a data packet (that is, whether the lens microcomputer **111** is a receiver). In a case where it is the receiver, the flow proceeds to **S612** to analyze the received data, and then the flow proceeds to **S613**. In a case where it is not the receiver, the flow proceeds to **S613** without analyzing the data.

(193) In **S613**, the lens microcomputer **111** determines whether or not the lens microcomputer **111** is to transmit the next data packet, and if so, the flow proceeds to **S614**. Otherwise, the flow proceeds to “END”.

(194) In **S614**, the lens microcomputer **111** generates a data packet for the next transmission. At this time, since it is not the lens microcomputer **111** that sets the signal level of the notification channel CS to a low level, the lens microcomputer **111** does not stop outputting Low. Next, the flow proceeds to “END.”

(195) “END” indicates the end of processing for a single data packet, and thereafter the flow returns to **S600** again to start processing the next data packet.

(196) <Switching to Time-Division Communication>

(197) FIG. **11** illustrates waveforms of signals in a case where broadcast communication (BCST COMM) and time-division communication are switched and executed. In FIG. **11**, broadcast communication and party specified communication are performed until time-division communication is started, and switching between these communications is as described with reference to FIG. **6**. The camera microcomputer **205** recognizes in advance the number of attached accessory apparatus through unillustrated accessory authentication communication or detection of the voltage level of the mount contact before the communication in FIG. **11** is described.

(198) In FIG. **11**, the camera microcomputer **205** first specifies the adapter microcomputer **302** as a communication party in broadcast communication. Next, the camera microcomputer **205** requests the adapter microcomputer **302** to transmit information specific to the intermediate adapter **300** (accessory-specific information: referred to as adapter-specific information hereinafter). In accordance with this request, the adapter microcomputer **302** transmits adapter-specific information to the camera microcomputer **205** by party specified communication.

(199) The accessory-specific information (adapter-specific information and lens-specific information described below) includes various information specific to the accessory apparatus, such as ID information, functions, and a communication speed of the accessory apparatus. In particular, four pieces of information (a1) to (a4) illustrated in FIG. **12** are important information for determining a period of time-division communication, a data packet structure, and the like. These pieces of information will be described below in detail.

(200) In FIG. **11**, data transmitted from the camera microcomputer **205** to the adapter microcomputer **302** is represented as a single data block, but this is not necessarily 1-byte data or data indicating a single type of information. Rather, the data may include a plurality of pieces of information necessary for requesting adapter-specific information. This is similarly applied to data transmitted from the adapter microcomputer **302** and data transmitted from the lens microcomputer **111**, which will be described below.

(201) After the camera microcomputer **205** has completed acquiring the adapter-specific information from the adapter microcomputer **302**, the camera microcomputer **205** specifies the lens microcomputer **111** as a communication party through broadcast communication. Next, the camera

microcomputer **205** requests the lens microcomputer **111** to transmit lens-specific information that is specific information about the interchangeable lens **100**. In accordance with this request, the lens microcomputer **111** transmits the lens-specific information to the camera microcomputer **205** through party specified communication.

(202) Through the above communication, the camera microcomputer **205** acquires all information necessary to start time-division communication. In the following description, a combination of important information for performing time-division communication illustrated in FIG. **12** among accessory-specific information acquired from each accessory, and information about the number of accessory apparatus attached to the camera **200** will be referred to as accessory characteristic information (information about the accessory apparatus or accessory information).

(203) The camera microcomputer **205** determines setting information for performing time-division communication based on the acquired accessory characteristic information and specific information about the camera **200** itself (information about the camera: referred to as camera-specific information hereinafter). The setting information for this time-division communication (referred to as time-division setting information hereinafter) includes a period T, a data packet structure within one period T, a baud rate (communication speed), a length of a data packet, the number of data packets, a type and order of the data packet, and the like. Details of the time-division setting information will be described below.

(204) Thereafter, the camera microcomputer **205** transmits a time-division communication start command to all accessory apparatus through broadcast communication. In this embodiment, the time-division setting information is included in the time-division communication start command, and each accessory apparatus prepares to start the time-division communication based on the information and transfers to the time-division communication. The time-division setting information may be transmitted to all accessory apparatus at different timings as information different from the time-division communication start command. At this time, the time-division setting information may be transmitted to all accessory apparatus by party specified communication. The details of the time-division communication are as described with reference to FIGS. **9**, **10A**, and **10B**.

(205) <Time-Division Setting Information>

(206) FIG. **12** illustrates four pieces of information included in the accessory characteristic information among the lens-specific information and the adapter-specific information in this embodiment. In addition to these four pieces of information, information about the number of accessory apparatus attached to the camera **200** is also included in the accessory characteristic information.

(207) Function (a1) represents at least one of functions of each accessory apparatus that is affected by or affects time-division communication. The camera microcomputer **205** recognizes the minimum communication period to be realized for each accessory apparatus based on the information about this function.

(208) Supported baud rate (a2) represents a baud rate that each accessory apparatus can support in time-division communication. The camera microcomputer **205** compares this corresponding baud rate information with a baud rate that the camera **200** can support, and selects the fastest baud rate supportable for all the accessory apparatus and the camera **200**.

(209) Communication-direction switching time (a3) represents the maximum time required for each accessory apparatus to prepare for the transmission or reception of a data packet. More specifically, t1 represents time required from when the notification channel CS becomes high to when data transmission is started via the data communication channel DATA. t2 represents time required from when data transmission is completed through the data communication channel DATA to when Low is outputted to the notification channel CS. t3 represents time required from when Low is outputted to the notification channel CS to when the direction of the data communication channel DATA is switched to input until outputting Low to the notification channel CS is stopped.

(210) These times are generally different depending on the performance of the microcomputer (such as the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302**) in each accessory apparatus, the clock frequency, the firmware structure, and the like. **t1**, **t2** and **t3** are also illustrated in FIG. **9**.

(211) Transmission/reception buffer size (**a4**) represents the maximum data amount (size) that each accessory apparatus can transmit or receive at one time. The data packet transmitted and received between each accessory apparatus and the camera **200** must fit within (is equal to or smaller than) this transmission/reception buffer size.

(212) FIG. **13** illustrates time-division setting information according to this embodiment. Period (**b1**) represents a communication period (T) of time-division communication. As the period, a frequency necessary for each accessory apparatus and the camera **200** to realize their functions is selected based on the function (**a1**) of the accessory characteristic information illustrated in FIG. **12**. In this embodiment, the interchangeable lens **100** has an image stabilization function, and the camera **200** has a function of controlling the image stabilization function of the interchangeable lens **100**. The intermediate adapter **300** includes an operation member (control ring) that can operate various setting values (ISO speed, shutter speed, etc.) of the camera **200**.

(213) As illustrated in FIG. **12**, a period required to control the image stabilizing function is 1 ms, and a period required to transmit an operation amount of the control ring is 16 ms. Therefore, 1 ms is selected as a period of time-division communication in accordance with the most frequent communication. Although this is a somewhat excessive frequency for the intermediate adapter **300**, communication may be performed every 1 ms, or the frequency may be suppressed and communication may be performed once every 16 periods.

(214) Baud rate (**b2**) represents a baud rate of time-division communication. The fastest baud rate that can be supported by all the accessory apparatus and the camera **200** is selected based on the supported baud rate (**a2**) in FIG. **12**. In this embodiment, 2.5 Mbps is selected as illustrated in FIG. **12**.

(215) Data packet length (**b3**) represents a length (number of bytes) of each data packet. This is calculated from the time information (**a2**) to (**a4**) in FIG. **12** and the number of data required in one period to realize the function (**a1**). This embodiment transmits a large data amount from the camera microcomputer **205** to the lens microcomputer **111** in controlling the image stabilizing function, and thus sets 32 bytes to a data packet "C.fwdarw.L," and 20 bytes to other data packets.

(216) (**b4**) to (**b6**) represent a data packet structure included within the period T defined in (**b1**). Maximum data packet number (**b4**) represents the maximum number of data packets that can exist within one period. This is determined by (**a1**), (**b1**), and the number of accessory apparatus attached to the camera **200**. In this embodiment, the period T is 1 ms, and the camera **200** is mounted with a single interchangeable lens **100** that needs communication every period and a single intermediate adapter **300** that does not need communication every period. That is, the data packets "C.fwdarw.L" and "L.fwdarw.C" may be transmitted and received every period, and the data packets "C.fwdarw.A" and "A.fwdarw.C" may be transmitted and received at necessary timings. Thus, the maximum number of data packets that can be included in one period is three.

(217) (**b5**) represents the type of data packet and the number of data packets in one period. The type means what is determined by a combination of a transmitter (communication source) and a receiver (communication destination), such as "C.fwdarw.L." The number of data packets in one period means the number of data packets that exist in each period within a range that satisfies the maximum number of packets in (**b4**) described above. This is determined by (**a1**), (**b1**), and the number of accessory apparatus attached to the camera **200**. In this embodiment, the camera **200** is to communicate with the interchangeable lens **100** at a period of 1 ms and communicate with the intermediate adapter **300** at a period of 16 ms. Thus, the data packets "C.fwdarw.L" and "L.fwdarw.C" are arranged in the first to fourteenth periods, the data packets "C.fwdarw.A," "C.fwdarw.L," and "L.fwdarw.C" are arranged in the fifteenth period, and the data packets

“C.fwdarw.L” and “L.fwdarw.C” are arranged in the sixteenth period.

(218) (b6) represents the order (predetermined order) of data packets within one period, which is determined by (a1). The order is a parameter for handling various cases, such as a case where it is better to receive data earlier than to transmit data in the function (a1), or a case where it is better to receive data from the intermediate adapter **300** before the data is received from the interchangeable lens **100**. In this embodiment, since an accurate period is required to control the image stabilizing function, the data packet “C.fwdarw.L” is always placed at the beginning of each period, and then the data packet “L.fwdarw.C” which is a reply from the interchangeable lens **100** is placed. Since the communication for detecting the operation of the control ring starts with the camera microcomputer **205** transmitting to the adapter microcomputer **302** at a predetermined timing, the data packet “C.fwdarw.A” has priority over “A.fwdarw.C.”

(219) The method of determining the time-division setting information described so far is merely illustrative, and other determination methods may be used. For example, the lowest baud rate at which the function can be implemented may be selected as a baud rate in order to avoid communication noise. The data packet length may be set to be the same for all data packets. The time-division setting information may be information directly indicating the period T, data packet structure, baud rate, data packet length, number, type, order, etc., or information that can be converted into each of them. In other words, information about the period T, data packet structure, baud rate, data packet length, number, type, order, and the like may be used.

(220) <Processing for Switching to Time-Division Communication>

(221) Flowcharts of FIGS. **14A** and **14B** illustrate processing (communication control method) for switching from broadcast communication to time-division communication. These flowcharts illustrate processing executed by the camera microcomputer **205** as a communication master and the lens microcomputer **111** as a communication slave. The camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** perform the processing illustrated in the flowcharts of FIGS. **14A** and **14B** according to computer programs. Since the processing executed by the adapter microcomputer **302** is basically the same as the processing executed by the lens microcomputer **111**, a description thereof will be omitted.

(222) The camera microcomputer **205** determines in **S700** whether or not the camera microcomputer **205** has recognized the number of accessory apparatus attached to the camera **200**. In a case where the camera microcomputer **205** has not yet recognized it, the flow proceeds to **S701**, and the camera microcomputer **205** reads the voltage of the contact terminal provided on the mount **401** to recognize the number of accessory apparatus. The contact terminal of the mount **401** is pulled up inside the camera **200** and pulled down inside the interchangeable lens **100**. In the intermediate adapter **300**, resistors are connected in series to the contact terminal of the mount **401** on the camera side and the contact terminal of the mount **400** on the lens side. Thereby, as the number of accessory apparatus attached to the camera **200** increases, a resistance value of the contact terminal of the mount **400** on the lens side becomes higher than that of the contact terminal of the mount **401** on the camera side. The camera microcomputer **205** recognizes the number of attached intermediate accessories by reading the voltage value of the contact terminal of the mount **401**. The interchangeable lens **100** is an essential accessory apparatus for the camera **200** and can be considered to be always attached to the camera **200**. In a case where the camera microcomputer **205** recognizes the number of attached accessory apparatus, the flow proceeds to **S702**.

(223) In **S702**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether or not the camera microcomputer **205** has acquired the lens-specific information from the lens microcomputer **111**. In a case where the camera microcomputer **205** has acquired it, the flow proceeds to **S705**, and in a case where the camera microcomputer **205** has not yet acquired it, the flow proceeds to **S703**.

(224) In **S703**, the camera microcomputer **205** outputs Low to the notification channel CS and transmits communication party specified data for specifying the lens microcomputer **111** as a communication party to the lens microcomputer **111** through broadcast communication.

(225) In **S704**, the camera microcomputer **205** transmits a transmission request for lens-specific information to the lens microcomputer **111** while keeping the notification channel CS high. Thereafter, the camera microcomputer **205** once outputs Low to the notification channel CS, and after completing preparation for data reception in the data communication channel DATA, stops outputting Low to the notification channel CS and waits for a reply from the lens microcomputer **111**. In a case where the lens-specific information is returned from the lens microcomputer **111**, the flow proceeds to **S705**.

(226) In **S705**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether or not the camera microcomputer **205** has acquired adapter-specific information from the adapter microcomputer **302**. In a case where the camera microcomputer **205** has acquired the adapter-specific information, the flow proceeds to **S708**, and in a case where the camera microcomputer **205** has not yet acquired the adapter-specific information, the flow proceeds to **S706**.

(227) In **S706**, the camera microcomputer **205** outputs Low to the notification channel CS, and transmits communication party specified data for specifying the adapter microcomputer **302** as a communication party through broadcast communication.

(228) In **S707**, the camera microcomputer **205** transmits a transmission request for adapter-specific information to the adapter microcomputer **302** while keeping the notification channel CS high. Thereafter, the camera microcomputer **205** once outputs Low to the notification channel CS, and after completing preparation for data reception in the data communication channel DATA, stops outputting Low to the notification channel CS and waits for a reply from the adapter microcomputer **302**. In a case where the adapter-specific information is returned from the adapter microcomputer **302**, the flow proceeds to **S708**.

(229) In **S708**, the camera microcomputer **205** calculates time-division setting information based on the number of attached accessory apparatus and the characteristic information including the lens-specific information from the interchangeable lens **100** and the adapter-specific information from the intermediate adapter **300**.

(230) In **S709**, the camera microcomputer **205** outputs Low to the notification channel CS and transmits a time-division communication start command to the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** through broadcast communication. This time-division communication start command includes the time-division setting information described above.

(231) In **S710**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether or not a predetermined time has elapsed after transmitting the time-division communication start command. The predetermined time may be, for example, the period T or another time. The predetermined time is the time for each accessory apparatus that has received the time-division communication start command to prepare for the time-division communication start. After the predetermined time has elapsed, the flow proceeds to **S711** and starts time-division communication.

(232) On the other hand, the lens microcomputer **111** determines in **S800** whether or not the lens microcomputer **111** has been specified as a communication party by the camera microcomputer **205**. In a case where the lens microcomputer **111** is not specified as a communication party, the lens microcomputer **111** waits, and in a case where the lens microcomputer is specified, the flow proceeds to **S801**.

(233) In **S801**, the lens microcomputer **111** switches from broadcast communication to party specified communication and waits for communication from the camera microcomputer **205**.

(234) In **S802**, the lens microcomputer **111** analyzes the communication from the camera microcomputer **205** and determines whether or not the communication includes a specific information transmission request. In a case where the communication includes a specific information transmission request, the flow proceeds to **S803** to prepare for transmission of lens-specific information. Then, in **S804**, the lens microcomputer **111** waits for the camera microcomputer **205** that has transmitted the specific information transmission request to stop outputting Low to the notification channel CS and the notification channel CS to become high. In a

case where the notification channel CS becomes high, the lens microcomputer **111** connects the data communication channel DATA to the data output unit of the lens microcomputer **111** and starts transmitting the lens-specific information.

(235) In **S805**, the lens microcomputer **111** switches from the party specified communication to the broadcast communication again.

(236) In **S806**, the lens microcomputer **111** determines whether the data received from the camera microcomputer **205** through the broadcast communication includes a time-division communication start command. In a case where the data includes the time-division communication start command, the flow proceeds to **S807** to set time-division communication according to the time-division setting information included in the received time-division communication start command, and waits for the camera microcomputer **205** to start communication. In a case where the lens microcomputer **111** determines in **S806** that the data does not include the time-division communication start command, the flow returns to **S800**.

(237) The lens microcomputer **111** that has determined in **S802** that the communication from the camera microcomputer **205** does not include the specific information transmission request performs processing for each of other requests. Then, the flow proceeds to **S809** to switch from the party specified communication to the broadcast communication again, and returns to **S800**.

(238) <Data Packet Structure>

(239) FIG. **15** illustrates a structure of one data packet. The accessory apparatus is the interchangeable lens **100** as an example, but may be the intermediate adapter **300**.

(240) A description will now be given of the structure of a data packet transmitted from the camera microcomputer **205** to the lens microcomputer **111**. The data packet has destination information ADDR, one or more command packets CMDP_n, and a data packet checksum TSUM. Each command packet CMDP_n includes command length information LEN_n, command CMD_n, command data CDATAN-_m, and command packet checksum PSUM_n. Each of *n* and *m* is an integer of 1 or more.

(241) The destination information ADDR is information representing a transmitter and a receiver of the data packet, and a number is assigned for each type of data packet such as “01” for “C.fwdarw.L” and “02” for “C.fwdarw.A.” The checksum TSUM of a data packet is the sum of numerical values of all data from the head to the second from TSUM in one data packet.

(242) One or more command packets CMDP is included in one data packet. Each command packet indicates a request command for the lens microcomputer **111**, such as a data reception request, a data transmission request, and an actuator driving request.

(243) The command length information LEN_n in the command packet CMDP represents a data amount in one entire command packet. The command CMD_n represents a request from the camera microcomputer **205** to the lens microcomputer **111**, and each request is given a specific number, such as “01” for an image stabilizing data reception request, and “02” for a control ring operation amount transmission request.

(244) The command data CDATAN-_m is a data group accompanying each command CMD_n, and corresponds to, for example, a plurality of bytes of image stabilizing data accompanying the image stabilizing data reception request. In a case where data transmission from the camera microcomputer **205** is unnecessary, such as the control ring operation amount transmission request, the command data CDATAN-_m may be omitted. The checksum PSUM of a command packet is the sum of numerical values of all data from the head to the second from PSUM in one command packet.

(245) A description will now be given of the structure of the data packet transmitted from the lens microcomputer **111** to the camera microcomputer **205**. Its basic structure is the same as a data packet transmitted from the camera microcomputer **205**. However, a command packet included in the data packet transmitted from the lens microcomputer **111** is always a reply to a certain request previously received from the camera microcomputer **205**. For example, in a case where the lens

microcomputer **111** receives an image stabilizing data reception request as CMDP1 from the camera microcomputer **205**, CMDPR1 transmitted from the lens microcomputer **111** is a response to the image stabilizing data reception request.

(246) The data packet structure described above is merely illustrative. Transmission and reception from the camera microcomputer **205** to the accessory apparatus may not necessarily be paired, and an error check may be performed by a cyclic redundancy check (CRC) instead of a checksum. A completely different data packet structure may be employed.

(247) <Time-Division Communication According to Predetermined Time-Division Setting Information>

(248) FIG. **16** illustrates signal waveforms in a case where time-division communication is performed according to time-division setting information determined before the time-division communication is performed. FIG. **16** illustrates signal waveforms where the camera **200** is mounted with the interchangeable lens **100** that performs communication regarding the image stabilizing function (referred to as image stabilizing communication hereinafter) and the intermediate adapter **300** that performs communication regarding operation of the control ring (referred to as ring operation communication hereinafter). The method of determining the time-division setting information is as described with reference to FIGS. **12** and **13**. A communication period (T) is 1 ms, and up to three data packets are included in each period. The data packets “C.fwdarw.L” and “L.fwdarw.C” are transmitted and received in each period, and the data packet “C.fwdarw.L” is always placed at the beginning of each period. Since ring operation communication may be performed once every 16 ms, the data packet “C.fwdarw.A” is additionally transmitted and received in the fifteenth period, and the data packet “A.fwdarw.C” is additionally transmitted and received in the sixteenth period. As long as the time-division setting information is not changed or the time-division communication is not stopped, the communication in the first period to the sixteenth period is repeated.

(249) Although FIGS. **12** and **13** respectively illustrate examples of characteristic information and time-division setting information about the accessory apparatus, other characteristic information and time-division setting information may be used. For example, the maximum number of data packets in one period may be set to four, and all data packets “C.fwdarw.L,” “L.fwdarw.C,” “C.fwdarw.A,” and “A.fwdarw.C” may be communicated every period. Two or more identical data packets may exist within one period. Communication between the camera **200** and the interchangeable lens **100** does not have to be performed every period. The data packet “C.fwdarw.A” may be set to the head in each period.

(250) <Changing Time-Division Setting Information During Time-Division Communication>

(251) The time-division setting information may be changed during time-division communication. FIG. **17** illustrates an example of pre-change time-division setting information and post-change time-division setting information. FIG. **18** illustrates signal waveforms in time-division communication according to the post-change time-division setting information illustrated in FIG. **17**. FIGS. **17** and **18** illustrate examples in which the control ring of the intermediate adapter **300** is operated during the time-division communication, the ring operation function becomes active, and the time-division setting information is changed. The maximum number of data packets, the type and number of data packets, the order of data packets, and the data packet length are as described with reference to FIG. **13**.

(252) In FIGS. **17** and **18**, the frequencies of the data packets “C.fwdarw.A” and “A.fwdarw.C” transmitted and received by the camera microcomputer **205** and the adapter microcomputer **302** are changed from once every 16 ms to once every 2 ms, and “C.fwdarw.A” and “A.fwdarw.C” are changed to be located before “L.fwdarw.C.” Thus, changing the time-division setting information in the middle of the time-division communication can switch the communication frequencies of the data packets “C.fwdarw.A” and “A.fwdarw.C” to the communication frequencies that emphasize the responsiveness of the control ring.

(253) The functions that require changing the time-division setting information during the time-division communication and the post-change time-division setting information described here are merely illustrative, and may be changed to other time-division setting information when another function becomes active.

(254) <Change Processing of Time-Division Setting Information During Time-Division Communication>

(255) Flowcharts of FIGS. **19A** and **19B** illustrate processing for changing time-division setting information during time-division communication. FIGS. **19A** and **19B** illustrate processing executed by the camera microcomputer **205** as a communication master and the adapter microcomputer **302** as a communication slave. The camera microcomputer **205** and the adapter microcomputer **302** perform the processing illustrated in the flowcharts of FIGS. **19A** and **19B** according to computer programs. Since the processing executed by the lens microcomputer **111** is basically the same as the processing executed by the adapter microcomputer **302**, a description thereof will be omitted.

(256) In **S900**, the camera microcomputer **205** transmits to each accessory apparatus attached to the camera **200** a request that requests it to confirm whether a function that needs to change the time-division setting information (abbreviated as setting information in FIGS. **19A** and **19B**) is activated. The function here is assumed to be the control ring operation function in the intermediate adapter **300** as illustrated in FIG. **17**, but may be a function of another accessory apparatus.

(257) In **S901**, in a case where the camera microcomputer **205** receives notification from the accessory apparatus (adapter microcomputer **302**) that the function that needs to change in the time-division setting information has been activated, the flow proceeds to **S902**.

(258) In **S902**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines new time-division setting information according to the activated function. The determination method is as described with reference to FIGS. **17** and **18**.

(259) In **S903**, the camera microcomputer **205** transmits to each accessory apparatus in data packets “C.fwdarw.L” and “C.fwdarw.A” of the time-division communication, the newly determined time-division setting information for the accessory apparatus and information indicating its change timing (referred to as change timing information hereinafter). The change timing information is to match the timing at which the camera microcomputer **205**, the lens microcomputer **111**, and the adapter microcomputer **302** change the time-division setting information, and is information such as the number of periods up to the change and the number of data packets. The new time-division setting information and change timing information need not be transmitted at the same time, and may be transmitted separately. While the camera microcomputer **205** transmits the change timing information to each accessory apparatus here, but each microcomputer may match the change timing based on the pre-change time-division setting information and the post-change time-division setting information.

(260) In **S904**, in a case where the camera microcomputer **205** receives a change acceptance notification from each accessory apparatus, the flow proceeds to **S905**. The change acceptance notification indicates that the time-division setting information can be changed based on the new time-division setting information and change timing information received by the accessory apparatus. The accessory apparatus may transmit the acceptance notification of the new time-division setting information and the acceptance notification of the change timing information to the camera microcomputer **205** at the same time or at different timings as separate notifications. Unless required by the camera microcomputer **205**, the accessory apparatus may not transmit the acceptance notification.

(261) In **S905**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether or not the camera microcomputer **205** has received change acceptance notifications from all the accessory apparatus attached to the camera **200**. If so, the flow proceeds to **S906**, and if there is an accessory apparatus from which the camera microcomputer **205** has not yet received the change acceptance notification,

the flow returns to **S903**.

(262) In **S906**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether or not the change timing has come, and in a case where it comes, changes the time-division setting information to new one in **S907**.

(263) On the other hand, in a case where the adapter microcomputer **302** detects an event to change the time-division setting information in **S1000**, the flow proceeds to **S1001**. The event here is the operation of the control ring.

(264) In **S1001**, the adapter microcomputer **302** determines whether or not the adapter microcomputer **302** has received a request from the camera microcomputer **205** for confirming whether a function that needs to change the time-division setting information has been activated, and if so, the flow proceeds to **S1002**.

(265) In **S1002**, the adapter microcomputer **302** transmits to the camera microcomputer **205** a notification indicating that the function that needs to change the time-division setting information has been activated.

(266) In **S1003**, the adapter microcomputer **302** determines whether or not new time-division setting information and change timing information have been received from the camera microcomputer **205**. If so, the flow proceeds to **S1004**. As described above, the new time-division setting information and change timing information do not necessarily need to be received at the same time, and may be received separately. Further, as described above, the change timing of the time-division setting information may be matched based on the pre-change time-division setting information or the post-change time-division setting information without using the change timing information.

(267) In **S1004**, the adapter microcomputer **302** transmits the change acceptance notification to the camera microcomputer **205**. As described above, the change acceptance notification of the time-division setting information and the acceptance notification of the change timing information may be transmitted to the camera microcomputer **205** at the same time or at different times, or may not be transmitted unless the camera microcomputer **205** requires them.

(268) In **S1005**, the adapter microcomputer **302** determines whether or not the change timing has come, and in a case where it comes, changes the time-division setting information to new information in **S1006**.

Second Embodiment

(269) A description will now be given of a second embodiment according to the disclosure. The camera system according to the second embodiment has a configuration similar to that of the first embodiment. However, the accessory characteristic information includes function information, a request period, and a request data size as information about functions possessed by the accessory apparatus. Determining a data packet size as the data packet length described in the first embodiment based on the accessory characteristic information can improve communication efficiency in the time-division communication.

(270) FIG. **20** illustrates accessory characteristic information according to this embodiment. Function information (**a11**) represents a classification of functions possessed by the accessory apparatus. This embodiment sets three types of function information **1**, function information **2**, and function information **3**, which are different in function classification. The data packet size is determined by allocating a data size to a data packet according to the priority of data communication associated with each piece of function information. A method of determining the data packet size will be described below with reference to FIGS. **21** and **22**.

(271) The function information **1** indicates functions of the accessory apparatus controlled by the camera **200**, such as image stabilization, autofocus, aperture driving, and zoom driving, by transmitting a control value from the camera **200** to the accessory apparatus. These functions require higher responsiveness than functions classified as other function information, and are executed in strict periods, so communication must be given priority over other functions. In other

words, by preferentially securing the data packet size corresponding to the function classified as the function information **1**, efficient communication can be obtained while the execution period of the function is secured.

(272) The function information **2** is information indicating a function that requires responsiveness among functions for transmitting information from the accessory apparatus to the camera **200**. The functions classified as the function information **2** include functions that are used by the camera **200** to control or change settings, such as a notification function of the operation of the control ring of the intermediate adapter **300** and a notification function of a current position of the image stabilizing lens **103** or the focus lens **104** in the interchangeable lens **100**. Functions classified as function information **2** do not require higher responsiveness than functions classified as the function information **1**, but may cause the performance of the accessory apparatus to deteriorate in a case where the responsiveness is lost. Therefore, a data packet size is preferentially secured for the functions classified as the function information **2** in order to perform preferential communication over functions classified as the function information **3** described below.

(273) The function information **3** is information indicating a function for transmitting or receiving information that does not require high responsiveness between the camera **200** and the accessory apparatus. Functions classified as function information **3** include a function of transmitting and receiving information indicating a setting state of a switch for switching between autofocus and manual focus in the interchangeable lens **100** and a state of a switch for switching turning on and turning off of the image stabilization. Although it is necessary to notify the camera **200** of these setting states, this information is less influential on the user than the functions classified as function information **2** in a case where notification delays. Thus, the functions classified as the function information **3** are given lower priority than the other functions to secure the data packet size.

(274) The function information **1**, the function information **2**, and the function information **3** are merely illustrative, and the number of pieces of function information does not have to be three. The function information may be provided for each period necessary to execute a function. In determining the data packet size, the function information **2** may be given priority over the function information **1**, and some functions may be given higher priority among the same function information.

(275) Required period (a12) represents a required period for each accessory apparatus to execute the corresponding function. For example, a period required for a function of controlling image stabilization (referred to as an image stabilizing control function hereinafter) classified as function information **1** is 1 ms, and a period required for a transmission function of control ring operation amount (referred to as control ring operation function hereinafter) classified as function information **2** is 16 ms. A status notifying function classified as the function information **3** has no particular period restriction. There are generations for the function of controlling the image stabilization, and the necessary period may be different for each generation. A plurality of values may be set as a period corresponding to a function. A period may be settable for each accessory apparatus rather than for each function.

(276) Required data size (a13) represents a required data size for executing the function of each accessory apparatus. In this embodiment, communication with the image stabilizing control function requires a command packet size of 24 bytes in a direction from C to L within a period of 1 ms. The control ring operation function requires a command packet size of 16 bytes in a direction from A to C within a period of 16 ms. The status notifying function requires 12 bytes for each data packet as the command packet size, although there is no periodical limit.

(277) The required data size described here is merely illustrative. For example, the specific data size required to execute the function may be different from the number of bytes described above, and the required data size may be different for each period corresponding to the function. The required data size may range from the minimum required data size for executing the function to a sufficiently large data size.

(278) The accessory characteristic information (supported baud rate, communication direction switching time, and transmission/reception buffer size) in FIG. 20 is as described in FIG. 12.

(279) A flowchart in FIG. 21 illustrates processing (communication control method) for the camera microcomputer 205 to determine a data packet size based on the accessory characteristic information described in FIG. 20. The camera microcomputer 205 executes this processing according to a computer program.

(280) The camera microcomputer 205 acquires accessory characteristic information from all accessory apparatus connected to the camera 200 in S2000. Then, the camera microcomputer 205 compares the request periods (a11) in FIG. 20 of all accessory apparatus, and determines the minimum value among them as the communication period. The determined communication period is not only an element for determining a data packet size, but also time-division setting information to be notified to the accessory apparatus included in FIG. 23, which will be described below.

(281) Next, in S2001, the camera microcomputer 205 selects as the communication baud rate the fastest baud rate that can be supported by all the accessory apparatus and the camera 200. A method of determining a communication baud rate may be different from this method. For example, the lowest baud rate may be selected to avoid communication noise, or different baud rates may be set for respective accessory apparatus. The determined communication baud rate, similar to the communication period, is an element for determining the data packet size, and is also time-division setting information to be notified to the accessory apparatus.

(282) Next, in S2002, the camera microcomputer 205 calculates an intra-period (or in-period) transmittable/receivable time, which is the time allocated for data transmission/reception within one communication period, by subtracting the communication direction switching time for the data packet from the determined communication period. Then, the camera microcomputer 205 calculates an intra-period data size, which is the maximum data size that can be transmitted and received within the period, by multiplying the intra-period transmittable/receivable time by the communication baud rate.

(283) In the subsequent steps, the camera microcomputer 205 determines a data packet size for each communication direction by allocating an intra-period data size to a data packet distinguished for each communication direction. In the following description, the intra-period data size that has not yet been allocated will be referred to as a remaining intra-period data size.

(284) Next, in S2003, the camera microcomputer 205 secures the minimum required data size for performing time-division communication from the intra-period data size. The camera microcomputer 205 secures the minimum required data size on the assumption that the destination information ADDR and the checksum TSUM of the data packet are required for each data packet.

(285) The minimum required data size is not limited to this example, and may not be secured by considering that it is 0 bytes, or a data size for the command length information LENn, the command CMDn, and the checksum PSUM of the command packet may be secured, which are components of the command packet. Alternatively, a completely different data packet structure may be employed to secure the data size required for the data packet structure.

(286) Next, in S2004, the camera microcomputer 205 selects a function according to the priority of data communication determined based on the function information. In this embodiment, the image stabilizing control function classified as the function information 1 has the highest priority and is selected first. Next, the control ring operation function classified as the function information 2 is selected second. Finally, the status notifying function classified as the function information 3 is selected. The selection order and priority of the functions are not limited to this example, and not all functions may be selected, and the priority may be determined by the user.

(287) Next, in S2005, the camera microcomputer 205 compares the required data size of the selected function with the remaining intra-period data size. In a case where the remaining intra-period data size is larger than the required data size, the flow proceeds to S2006. S2005 is not always necessary, and in a case where the intra-period data size is sufficiently larger than the

required data size of the function or other cases, the flow may proceed directly from S2004 to S2006.

(288) In S2006, the camera microcomputer 205 secures the required data size of the function within the remaining intra-period data size and allocates it to the corresponding data packet. At this time, the required data size of the function may be obtained from the accessory apparatus as accessory characteristic information, or may be previously stored as internal data in the camera 200.

(289) Next, in S2007, the camera microcomputer 205 determines whether data sizes have been allocated to all functions, and in a case where all functions have been allocated, ends this processing. In a case where the allocation processing to all functions has not been completed, the flow returns to S2004 to select the next function from the priority determined based on the function information.

(290) The camera microcomputer 205 repeats the above processing until the required data size of the function cannot be secured or data sizes are assigned to all functions. Thus, the data packet size is determined by allocating the data size based on the function information.

(291) FIG. 22 illustrates how the camera microcomputer 205 determines the data packet size in the processing illustrated in FIG. 21 based on the accessory characteristic information illustrated in FIG. 20.

(292) In (c1), in S2000, 1 ms is determined as the communication period. 1 ms is a shorter one of a period of 1 ms required to execute the image stabilizing control function in FIG. 20 and a required period of 16 ms required to transmit the operation amount of the control ring.

(293) Next, in (c2), in S2001, the transmissible/receivable time within the communication period is calculated by subtracting the sum of communication direction switching time that occurs between intra-period data packets from the communication period. In this embodiment, data packets are communicated in the order of C.fwdarw.L, L.fwdarw.C, C.fwdarw.A, and A.fwdarw.C within a communication period. There are two data packets depending on the communication direction switching time between the interchangeable lens 100 and the intermediate adapter 300, and for the communication direction switching time between the interchangeable lens 100 and the intermediate adapter 300 in FIG. 20, 600 μ s is totally required. Hence, the transmissible/receivable within the communication period time is 400 μ s.

(294) It is not always necessary to determine the transmissible/receivable time within the communication period based on the communication direction switching time between the interchangeable lens 100 and the intermediate adapter 300. For example, the transmissible/receivable time within the communication period may be determined based on the communication direction switching time that the camera 200 has as internal information, or the transmissible/receivable time within the communication period may be previously determined as a communication rule.

(295) In (c2), in S2001, 2.5 Mbps is determined as the communication baud rate. 2.5 Mbps is the fastest baud rate amount the supported baud rates of the interchangeable lens 100 and the intermediate adapter 300 illustrated in FIG. 20.

(296) Next, in (c3), in S2002, the intra-period data size of 100 bytes is calculated by multiplying the transmissible/receivable time within the communication period of 400 μ s by the communication baud rate of 2.5 Mbps. Since this embodiment adds a start bit and a stop bit in transmitting and receiving data for each 1 byte, 1 byte is calculated as 10 bits.

(297) Next, in (c4), in S2003, a total of 8 bytes is secured within the intra-period data size, for 2 bytes of the destination information ADDR and the checksum TSUM of the data packet for each data packet as the minimum necessary data size for time-division communication.

(298) Next, in (c5), in S2004 and S2005, 24 bytes as the required data size of the image stabilizing control function, which is a function classified as the function information 1, is allocated to a data packet of C.fwdarw.L.

(299) Also, in (c6), similarly, 16 bytes as the required data size of the control ring operation

function, which is a function classified as the function information **2**, is allocated to a data packet of A.fwdarw.C.

(300) In (c7), a total of 48 bytes, 12 bytes for each data packet, is secured as the required data size for a status notifying function classified as the function information **3**.

(301) As illustrated in (c8), the secured data size is organized for each data packet as follows. 42 bytes for C.fwdarw.L, 14 bytes for L.fwdarw.C, 14 bytes for C.fwdarw.A, and 30 bytes for A.fwdarw.C. This embodiment secures a data packet size corresponding to C.fwdarw.L larger than another data packet size according to the required data size of the image stabilizing control function. In addition, due to the required data size of the control ring operation function, the corresponding data packet size of L.fwdarw.C is secured larger than other data packet sizes excluding that for C.fwdarw.L. The data packet size is determined as described above.

(302) The data packet size determination method described here is merely illustrative, and another determination method may be used. For example, the data packet size may be determined by the function, or the data packet size may be the same for each data packet as long as the required data size can be sufficiently secured.

(303) FIG. **23** illustrates time-division setting information that the camera microcomputer **205** notifies to the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302** in this embodiment. The time-division setting information includes a communication period, a communication baud rate, and a data packet size of each data packet for time-division communication. The communication period is 1 ms, and the communication baud rate is 2.5 Mbps. The data packet sizes are as follows: 42 bytes for C.fwdarw.L, 14 bytes for L.fwdarw.C, 14 bytes for C.fwdarw.A, and 30 bytes for A.fwdarw.C. These values are merely illustrative, and for example, the communication period and communication baud rate may be fixed and not included in the time-division setting information. The time-division setting information may include the order of data packets and the transmission and reception timings within the communication period.

(304) The time-division setting information including the data packet size is notified to each accessory apparatus through the party specified communication illustrated in FIGS. **8A** and **8B** of the first embodiment before time-division communication is performed. This configuration allows the camera **200** and all accessory apparatus to share the time-division setting information. The method of notifying the time-division setting information is not limited to this example. For example, as illustrated in FIGS. **14A** and **14B** of the first embodiment, the time-division setting information may be notified by including the time-division setting information in the time-division communication start command transmitted by broadcast communication.

(305) The method of determining and notifying the time-division setting information including the data packet size for the time-division communication described above is merely illustrative, and another method may be adopted. For example, parameters other than the function information may be fixed and the data packet size may be determined based on the function information, or the data packet structure may be different.

(306) The camera microcomputer **205** may determine a data packet size itself described above, information for determining the data packet size (such as the maximum data size that the accessory apparatus can transmit and receive as a data packet), or information that can be converted into the data packet size. That is, the camera microcomputer **205** may determine information about the data packet size.

Third Embodiment

(307) A description will now be given of a third embodiment according to the disclosure. The camera system according to this embodiment has the same configuration as that of the second embodiment. In this embodiment, in a case where the determined data packet size is smaller than the required data size of the function, the data is divided, transmitted, and received. In other words, the data size information is determined so that if the data packet size is larger than the maximum data size that can be transmitted or received at one time to or from the accessory apparatus, the data

packet is divided into a plurality of data packets within the maximum data size. This configuration enables more functions to be executed.

(308) <Determination of Data Packet Size Using Data Division>

(309) A description will now be given of a method of determining the data packet size for time-division communication according to this embodiment. FIG. 24 illustrates accessory characteristic information about each accessory apparatus in this embodiment. The number of required data bytes has the same value as that illustrated in FIG. 20 in the second embodiment, but in this embodiment, the number of required data bytes indicates the number of requested data bytes within the required period. Even in a case where the number of required data bytes for executing the function cannot be secured in determining the data packet, the function data, which is the data required to be transmitted and received for executing the function, is divided into a plurality of data packets, and transmitted and received at different communication periods. Thereby, that function can be executed. The function data may be control values for image stabilization, autofocus, aperture driving, zoom driving, etc., or may be commands for executing these controls. Alternatively, it may be an instruction to interrupt or terminate time-division communication.

(310) As for the transmission/reception buffer size, both the transmission buffer size and the reception buffer size of the intermediate adapter 300 are 8 bytes, which is smaller than those of the first and second embodiments. Other accessory characteristic information is the same as that illustrated in FIG. 20.

(311) A flowchart in FIG. 25 illustrates processing of determining a data packet size based on the accessory characteristic information described in FIG. 24. The camera microcomputer 205 executes this processing according to a computer program.

(312) S3000 to S3003 are the same as S2000 to S2003 of the second embodiment (FIG. 21).

(313) In S3004, the camera microcomputer 205 secures the minimum divided data size within the remaining intra-period data size. The minimum divided data size is the minimum data size that can be transmitted and received by dividing function data. By securing the minimum divided data size, the function data to be transmitted and received can be divided, transmitted and received in order to execute the function within the minimum divided data size and the data size secured in S3009, which will be described below, even if the required data size of the function is not secured in S3008. The data size secured as the minimum division data size may be used to transmit and receive a plurality of function data.

(314) Next, in S3005, the camera microcomputer 205 selects a function according to the priority determined based on the function information, as in S2004 of FIG. 21.

(315) Then, in S3006, the camera microcomputer 205 compares the required data size of the function and the remaining intra-period data size in the same manner as that in S2005 of FIG. 21. In a case where the remaining intra-period data size is larger, the flow proceeds to S3007; otherwise, the flow proceeds to S3010.

(316) In S3007, the camera microcomputer 205 compares a remaining transmission/reception buffer size obtained by subtracting the already secured data size from the transmission/reception buffer size of the corresponding data packet with the required data size of the function. In a case where the remaining transmission/reception buffer size is larger, the flow proceeds to S3008; otherwise, the flow proceeds to S3009.

(317) In S3008, similarly to S2006, the camera microcomputer 205 secures the required data size of the function within the remaining intra-period data size and allocates it to the corresponding data packet.

(318) In S3009, the camera microcomputer 205 secures a data packet corresponding to the function up to the transmission/reception buffer size. Different from the second embodiment, added S3007 and S3009 can limit the data packet size so that it does not exceed the transmission/reception buffer size.

(319) In S3010, the camera microcomputer 205 determines whether data sizes have been allocated

to all functions. In a case where all functions have been allocated, this processing ends. In a case where the allocation processing to all functions has not yet been completed, the flow returns to **S3005** to select the next function according to the priority determined based on the function information.

(320) The camera microcomputer **205** repeats the above processing until data sizes are assigned to all functions. Thus, the data packet size is determined by allocating the data size based on the function information. Securing the minimum divided data size in advance enables the function to be executed, even if the required data size of the function is not secured, by dividing the data packet and transmitting and receiving it as illustrated in FIG. **28**, which will be described below.

(321) FIG. **26** illustrates a flow in which the camera microcomputer **205** performs the processing illustrated in FIG. **25** based on the accessory characteristic information illustrated in FIG. **24** to determine the data packet size.

(322) (d1) to (d4) are the same as (c1) to (c4) in the second embodiment (FIG. **22**). At (d4), the remaining intra-period data size is 92 bytes.

(323) In (d5), in **S3004**, a minimum divided data size of at least 4 bytes for each data packet as a data size that enables at least a divided command to be transmitted and received, that is, totally 16 bytes, is secured.

(324) In (d6), in **S3008**, a required data size is secured after the flow passes through **S3006** and **S3007** for the image stabilizing control function initially selected in **S3005**. In this embodiment, the required data size of 28 bytes is allocated to a C.fwdarw.L data packet.

(325) Next, in (d7), the remaining transmission/reception buffer size and the required data size are compared in **S3007** for a control ring operation function selected in **S3005**. As a result, since the required data size cannot be secured, the data packet for the transmission/reception buffer size is secured in **S3009**. In this embodiment, 6 bytes are already secured for an A.fwdarw.C data packet corresponding to a control ring operation function. Since the transmission/reception buffer size is 8 bytes, 2 bytes are secured for the A.fwdarw.C data packet corresponding to the control ring operation function.

(326) Next, in (d8), a status notifying function is selected in **S3005**, and 12 bytes, which is a required data size of the status notifying function, is secured in **S3008** for the C.fwdarw.L and L.fwdarw.C data packets. The C.fwdarw.A and A.fwdarw.C data packets are secured up to the transmission/reception buffer size in **S3009**. 6 bytes have already been secured for the C.fwdarw.A data packet, and since the transmission/reception buffer size is 8 bytes, 2 bytes of the C.fwdarw.A data packet corresponding to the status notifying function are secured. 8 bytes have already been secured for the A.fwdarw.C data packets, and since the transmission/reception buffer size is 8 bytes, no A.fwdarw.C data packets corresponding to the status notifying function are secured.

(327) As illustrated in (d9), the secured data size is organized for each data packet as follows: 46 bytes for C.fwdarw.L, 18 bytes for L.fwdarw.C, 8 bytes for C.fwdarw.A, and 8 bytes for A.fwdarw.C. 20 bytes remain.

(328) FIG. **27** illustrates time-division setting information (including a communication period, a communication baud rate, and a data packet size) that the camera microcomputer **205** notifies to the lens microcomputer **111** and the adapter microcomputer **302**. The data packet size in this embodiment is restricted by the transmission/reception buffer size different from the time-division setting information illustrated in the second embodiment (FIG. **23**) as follows: 8 bytes for C.fwdarw.A and 8 bytes for A.fwdarw.C. Therefore, in this embodiment, the control ring operating function is executed by transmitting and receiving divided function data.

(329) The method of notifying the time-division setting information from the camera **200** to the interchangeable lens **100** and the intermediate adapter **300** is the same as that described with reference to FIG. **23**.

(330) <Time-Division Communication Processing of Divided Function Data>

(331) The camera microcomputer **205**, lens microcomputer **111**, and adapter microcomputer **302**

each have a communication block and a function block. The communication block performs communication control including the time-division processing illustrated in FIGS. **10A** and **10B**. The function block controls the execution of a function. The communication block and the function block also have a shared memory that shares function data and a local memory that the communication block accesses. The shared memory and the local memory may be the same memory, and a plurality of function blocks may be provided for each function. For example, the function blocks may include a function block for an image stabilizing control function and a function block for a control ring operation function.

(332) The camera microcomputer **205** and the lens microcomputer **111** perform the time-division communication processing illustrated in FIGS. **10A** and **10B** in the first embodiment. Since the time-division communication processing executed by the adapter microcomputer **302** is basically the same as the time-division communication processing executed by the lens microcomputer **111**, a description thereof will be omitted.

(333) FIG. **28** illustrates processing for generating a transmission data packet based on a data packet size previously determined by the camera microcomputer **205**. This processing is performed in **S507** and **S514** of FIG. **10A**. The lens microcomputer **111** generates a transmission data packet in **S607** and **S614** of FIG. **10B** in the same manner as that of in FIG. **28**. A detailed description will be omitted of the processing of the lens microcomputer **111** to generate the transmission data packet.

(334) In **S10001**, the function block of the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether or not function data is to be transmitted. If the function data is to be transmitted, the camera microcomputer **205** acquires the function data from the shared memory, and the flow proceeds to **S10002**. If the function data is not to be transmitted, the flow proceeds to **S10005**. The function block prepares the function data in the shared memory before determining whether or not the function data is to be transmitted.

(335) In this embodiment, the function block of the camera microcomputer **205** prepares function data for an image stabilizing control function in a shared memory, and notifies the communication block that the function data for the image stabilizing control function is to be transmitted for each communication period. The function block of the adapter microcomputer **302** prepares function data for a control ring operation function in a shared memory, and notifies the communication block that the function data for the control ring operation function is to be transmitted once every 16 periods. However, these are merely illustrative. For example, the function data of the control ring operation function may be determined to be transmitted only in a case where the control ring is actually operated by the user, or may not be transmitted in a case where the image stabilizing function is turned off.

(336) Next, in **S10002**, the communication block of the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether or not the function data is to be divided and transmitted. In a case where the function data is to be divided and transmitted, the flow proceeds to **S10003**, and in a case where the function data is not to be divided and transmitted, the flow proceeds to **S10004**. In this embodiment, whether or not to divide the function data is determined based on whether or not the required data size is secured for that function in **S3008**, which is the data packet size determination step described with reference to FIG. **25**. That is, in a case where the required data size is not secured, it is determined that the function data is to be divided. This is merely illustrative, and whether or not to divide and transmit the function data may be determined depending on whether or not the data packet size is exceeded in including the function data in the data packet.

(337) In **S10003**, the communication block of the camera microcomputer **205** includes in a data packet the command packet obtained by dividing the function data at the accessory apparatus within the transmission data packet size. In this embodiment, the control ring operation function of the adapter microcomputer **302** corresponds to the function of dividing function data. The number of data bytes required by the control ring operation function is 16 bytes. The data size assigned to

the control ring operation function is totally 6 bytes, which is the sum of 4 bytes of the minimum divided data size of the L.fwdarw.C data packet size, and 2 bytes of the data packet corresponding to the control ring operation function secured up to the transmission/reception buffer size. Thus, the command packet is generated by dividing the function data within the allocated size.

(338) This embodiment simply divides the function data of the control ring operation function into three pieces: first to sixth bytes, seventh to twelfth bytes, and thirteenth to sixteenth bytes, which are 6 bytes each. Then, first, the command packet of the first to sixth bytes is included in the data packet. The command packet of the seventh to twelfth bytes and the command packet of the thirteenth to sixteenth bytes are stored in the local memory, and are included in the data packet in **S10003** at the time of data packet generations in the next period and the period just after the next period. Then, the flow proceeds to **S10005**.

(339) This method of generating a command packet by dividing function data is merely illustrative, and other generation methods may be used. For example, for each command packet generated by division, the data sizes may or may not be secured for the command length information LENn, the command CMDn, and the checksum PSUM of the command packet, which are the components of the command packet. In order to secure the data size of the status notifying function, etc., the command packet may be divided into smaller command packets. The number of divisions of function data may be 16 according to the required period.

(340) In **S10004**, the communication block of the camera microcomputer **205** includes a command packet containing all data necessary for the accessory apparatus to perform its function in a transmission data packet. More specifically, the camera microcomputer **205** includes the command packet for the image stabilizing control function in the transmission data packet. The number of data bytes required for the image stabilizing control function is 24 bytes, and a 24-byte command packet is generated and included in the data packet without dividing the function data. Then, the flow proceeds to **S10005**.

(341) In **S10005**, the communication block of the camera microcomputer **205** confirms whether or not the determination in **S10001** has been executed for all function data, and the flow returns to **S10001** if there is any function data that has not been executed. In this way, this processing is repeated until whether or not transmission is necessary is determined for all function data. If the determination in **S10001** is executed for all function data, the flow proceeds to END. END indicates the end of this processing of generating one transmission data packet.

(342) FIG. **29** illustrates processing in which the camera microcomputer **205** receives and analyzes a transmission data packet generated based on a predetermined data packet size. This processing is performed in **S512** of FIG. **10A**. The lens microcomputer **111** receives and analyzes a transmission data packet in the same processing as that of FIG. **29** in **S612** in FIG. **10B**. A detailed description of the processing of receiving and analyzing the transmission data packet by the lens microcomputer **111** will be omitted.

(343) The communication block of the camera microcomputer **205** waits to receive a data packet in **S10101**, and the flow proceeds to **S10102** upon reception.

(344) In **S10102**, the communication block of the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether or not the function data has been received. If not, the flow proceeds to **S10106**. If received, the communication block analyzes the command packet within the received data packet and selects one of the function data. In this embodiment, the function data are selected in order of reception. The function data may be selected according to the priority of the function information associated with it.

(345) Next, in **S10103**, the communication block of the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether or not the received function data is divided function data (referred to as divided function data hereinafter). If it is not divided function data, the flow proceeds to **S10104**, and if it is divided function data, the flow proceeds to **S10105**. If the received function data is the divided function data and the pre-division function data is complete with the divided function data acquired this

time, the pre-division function data is generated by extracting the divided function data from the local memory, and the flow proceeds to **S10104**.

(346) In **S10104**, the communication block of the camera microcomputer **205** stores the received function data in the shared memory. The communication block performs that function based on the function data stored in the shared memory. In this embodiment, the function block of the camera microcomputer **205** executes the control ring operation function based on the function data of the control ring operation function. For example, if the control ring is assigned a function of changing a set value of a shutter speed, the function block of the camera microcomputer **205** changes the shutter speed set value in the camera **200** according to the operation of the control ring. The function block of the lens microcomputer **111** executes an image stabilizing function based on the function data of the image stabilizing control function received from the camera microcomputer **205**. Another function is also executed based on the function data.

(347) In **S10105**, the communication block of the camera microcomputer **205** stores the received divided function data in the local memory.

(348) Next, in **S10106**, the communication block of the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether or not all the received function data have been processed. If all the function data have not yet been processed, the flow returns to **S10102** to continue to analyze a data packet. If all function data have been processed, the flow proceeds to **END**. **END** indicates the end of analysis processing for one received data packet.

Fourth Embodiment

(349) A description will now be given of a fourth embodiment. The camera system according to this embodiment has the same configuration as that of the first embodiment. In this embodiment, an error is detected based on information that is used to detect an error included in a data packet. The information that is used to detect the error includes at least one of a destination, a command, the number of data per command, a checksum per command, and a data packet checksum. This embodiment makes different error processing among errors, error such as packet destination abnormality, bit misalignment, etc. that cause communication failure are treated as “serious errors,” and other errors are treated as “minor errors.” This embodiment also makes different error processing according to whether a command containing a minor error is a command that is sent and received periodically or a command that is sent and received irregularly such as when an event occurs. When detecting the error, this embodiment changes the content of communication error processing according to the type of error. When detecting the error, this embodiment may change the content of communication error processing according to the content of the communication error when the error occurs.

(350) <Processing for Minor Errors in Time-Division Communication>

(351) FIG. **30** illustrates communication processing in a case where a checksum error is included in a periodic command. The configuration of the data packet is as described with reference to FIG. **15**. In a case where an error occurs in PSUM of CMDPR1 (periodic command), which is a reply to an image stabilization data reception request, due to the influence of noise or the like in the L.fwdarw.C packet at period **T1**, the camera microcomputer **205** as a receiver performs communication after the next period **T2** without notification of a communication error. Data containing the checksum error is discarded without being used for the subsequent processing. Thus, in the case of a periodic command, even if there is a minor error in data at a certain period, time-division communication is continued without error notification or resend request, because the latest data at the next or subsequent period may be used. However, in a case where the same command continuously contains an error, the influence on the operation becomes significant and thus the camera microcomputer **205** as the receiver stores the number of consecutive errors, and performs error processing when the number of consecutive errors is larger than the predetermined number of times.

(352) FIG. **31** illustrates communication processing in a case where a command that is not a

periodic command that is received periodically (an event-generated command that is received aperiodically, such as a command that is sent and received irregularly, a command based on the operation of an operation member, has a checksum error. In a case where PSUM of CMDPR2 (which is not assumed to be a periodic command) becomes an error due to the influence of noise or the like in an L.fwdarw.C packet of a certain period T1, the camera microcomputer 205 as the receiver notifies a communication error of the command at the timing of the next transmission. Data including checksum errors are discarded without being used for the subsequent processing. When receiving the error notification command, the lens microcomputer 111 as the sender resends the previously transmitted data of the corresponding command at the timing of the next transmission. Thus, in a case where the command is not a periodic command, it is necessary to resend the previous data so as to prevent discrepancy in recognition between the sender and the receiver in the subsequent processing. Commands that do not contain checksum errors are communicated in the same manner as normal. Thereby, only necessary error processing can be performed without stopping processing of another command that are normally communicated. However, in a case where the same command continuously contains an error, the influence on the operation becomes significant and thus the camera microcomputer 205 as the receiver stores the number of consecutive errors, and performs error processing when the number of consecutive errors is larger than the predetermined number of times.

(353) FIGS. 30 and 31 illustrates an example in which an L.fwdarw.C packet contains a checksum error, but this embodiment can be similarly applied to another packet. This embodiment can be similarly applied to minor errors such as framing errors and parity errors, in addition to checksum errors. The periodic command is not limited to a command sent every period, and may be a command sent once every two periods or once every three periods.

(354) <Time-Division Communication Data Packet Reception Processing Flow>

(355) Flowcharts in FIGS. 32A and 32B illustrate data packet reception processing during time-division communication executed by the camera microcomputer 205 as a communication master and the lens microcomputer 111 as a communication slave. The camera microcomputer 205 and the lens microcomputer 111 perform the processing illustrated in the flowcharts of FIGS. 32A and 32B according to a computer program. The party specified communication processing executed by the adapter microcomputer 302 is basically the same as the party specified communication processing executed by the lens microcomputer 111, and thus a description thereof will be omitted. FIGS. 32A and 32B omit processing at a timing which is not its reception timing.

(356) In S4000, the camera microcomputer 205 determines whether or not it is the destination of the packet received at its reception timing, and if so, the flow proceeds to S4001, otherwise the flow proceeds to S4015.

(357) In S4001, the camera microcomputer 205 analyzes one command in the received packet.

(358) In S4002, the camera microcomputer 205 determines whether or not the analyzed command is a reply command to the previously transmitted command (whether or not the command part has been transformed by noise or the like). Otherwise, the flow proceeds to S4013.

(359) In S4003, the camera microcomputer 205 determines whether or not there is a checksum error in the analyzed command, and if so, the flow proceeds to S4004, otherwise the flow proceeds to S4011.

(360) In S4004, the camera microcomputer 205 determines whether or not the command containing the checksum error is a periodic command. In a case where it is not the periodic command, in S4010 the camera microcomputer 205 generates a command requesting retransmission of the previous data, and adds it to the next transmission packet. Thereafter, the flow proceeds to S4005. In a case where it is the periodic command, the data sent in the next period may be used, so there is no need to request retransmission, and the flow proceeds to S4005.

(361) In S4013, the camera microcomputer 205 determines whether or not the previously transmitted command is the periodic command, and in a case where it is not the periodic command,

the camera microcomputer **205** again generates the previously transmitted command in **S4014** and adds it to the next transmission packet. Thereafter, the flow proceeds to **S4005**. In a case where it is the periodic command, the latest data may be sent in the next period, so there is no need to resend the previous data, and the flow proceeds to **S4005**.

(362) In **S4005**, the camera microcomputer **205** discards the received data without processing it.

(363) In **S4006**, the camera microcomputer **205** counts the number of consecutive errors, and then determines in **S4007** whether the number of consecutive errors is larger than a predetermined number of times (threshold). The predetermined number of times is a value set for each command. In a case where the number of consecutive errors is larger than the predetermined number of times, the camera microcomputer **205** performs error processing in accordance with the command in **S4008**.

(364) In **S4011**, since the camera microcomputer **205** has successfully received the data, the camera microcomputer **205** processes the received data according to the command.

(365) In **S4012**, the camera microcomputer **205** resets the number of consecutive errors to 0.

(366) In **S4009**, the camera microcomputer **205** determines whether the analysis of all commands included in the received packet has been completed, and if so, the flow proceeds to “END.”

Otherwise (if there are an unanalyzed command in the received packet), the flow return to **S4001** to analyze the next command.

(367) In **S4015**, the camera microcomputer **205** performs time-division communication recovery processing. Then, the flow proceeds to “END.”

(368) “END” indicates the end of the received packet analysis processing.

(369) On the other hand, in **S4100**, the lens microcomputer **111** determines whether or not it is the destination of the packet received at its reception timing, and if so, the flow proceeds to **S4101**, otherwise the flow proceeds to **S4112**.

(370) In **S4101**, the lens microcomputer **111** analyzes one command in the received packet.

(371) In **S4102**, the lens microcomputer **111** determines whether or not there is a checksum error in the analyzed command, and if so, the flow proceeds to **S4103**, otherwise the flow proceeds to **S4110**.

(372) In **S4103**, the lens microcomputer **111** determines whether or not the command containing the checksum error is a periodic command. If it is not the periodic command, in **S4109** the lens microcomputer **111** generates a command requesting retransmission of the previous data, and adds it to the next transmission packet. Thereafter, the flow proceeds to **S4104**. In a case where it is the periodic command, the data sent in the next period may be used, so there is no need to request retransmission, and the flow proceeds to **S4104**.

(373) In **S4104**, the lens microcomputer **111** discards the received data without processing it.

(374) In **S4105**, the lens microcomputer **111** counts the number of consecutive errors, and then determines in **S4106** whether the number of consecutive errors becomes larger than a predetermined number of times (threshold). The predetermined number is a value set for each command. In a case where the number of consecutive errors becomes larger than the predetermined number, the lens microcomputer **111** performs error processing corresponding to the command in **S4107**.

(375) In **S4110**, since the lens microcomputer **111** has successfully received the data, the lens microcomputer **111** processes the received data according to the command.

(376) In **S4111**, the lens microcomputer **111** resets the number of consecutive errors to 0.

(377) In **S4108**, the lens microcomputer **111** determines whether the analysis of all commands included in the received packet has been completed, and if so, the flow proceeds to “END.”

Otherwise (if there are an unanalyzed command in the received packet), the flow return to **S4101** to analyze the next command.

(378) In **S4112**, the lens microcomputer **111** performs time-division communication recovery processing. Then proceed to “END”.

(379) "END" indicates the end of the received packet analysis processing.

(380) <Time-Division Communication Recovery Processing>

(381) In a case where a serious error occurs that causes communication failure, time-division communication recovery processing is performed. FIG. 33 illustrates error notification and recovery processing in a case where the packet destination has an error. The receiver confirms the destination of the received packet and that it is addressed to itself. In a case where the packet destination is C.fwdarw.A at a timing when the C.fwdarw.L packet is originally transmitted, the lens microcomputer 111 as the receiver sets CS to Low (low level) for a predetermined time t4 and notifies other devices of the abnormality. In a case where the other device detects that CS is Low for a predetermined time, it suspends the time-division communication and switches the communication setting to the broadcast communication. Thereafter, when CS becomes High (high level) (after communication with other devices is established), the camera microcomputer 205 as the communication master restarts the initial communication of time-division communication by the broadcast communication and party specified communication (restarts time-division communication). The processing for switching to time-division communication is as described with reference to FIG. 11.

(382) Although FIG. 33 illustrates an example of abnormality in packet destination as an error that causes communication failure, this embodiment is not limited to this example. For example, this embodiment is similarly applied to error cases where data is not sent for a predetermined period, where CS moves during data transmission or reception, and where there is a bit shift.

Other Embodiments

(383) Embodiment(s) of the 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 disc (such as a compact disc (CD), digital versatile disc (DVD), or Blu-ray Disc (BD)TM), a flash memory device, a memory card, and the like.

(384) Each of the above embodiments can provide efficient data communication between the camera and the accessory apparatus, and thereby achieve excellent communication between the camera and the accessory apparatus.

(385) While the disclosure has been described with reference to embodiments, it is to be understood that the disclosure is not limited to the disclosed embodiments. The scope of the following claims is to be accorded the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and equivalent structures and functions.

(386) This application claims the benefit of Japanese Patent Application No. 2022-182013, filed on Nov. 14, 2022, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Claims

1. A camera that is operable while a plurality of accessory apparatus are connected to the camera, the camera comprising: a memory storing instructions; and a camera processor configured to execute the instructions to: control communication with the plurality of accessory apparatus using a notification channel for notification with the plurality of accessory apparatus and a data communication channel for data communication with the plurality of accessory apparatus, perform first communication for simultaneous communication with the plurality of accessory apparatus using the data communication channel, and second communication for individual communication with a specific accessory apparatus among the plurality of accessory apparatus using the data communication channel, and change a content of communication error processing according to a type of error in a case where the camera processor detects the error based on information that is used to detect the error included in a data packet in performing the second communication by switching the specific accessory apparatus in a predetermined order.
2. The camera according to claim 1, wherein in a case where the camera processor detects the error, the camera processor is configured to change the content of the communication error processing according to a communication status when the error occurs.
3. The camera according to claim 1, wherein the information includes at least one of a destination, a command, the number of data per command, a checksum per command, and checksum of the data packet.
4. The camera according to claim 1, wherein the error includes a first error that is a minor error that does not cause communication failure, and a second error different from the first error.
5. The camera according to claim 4, wherein the camera processor is configured to continue communication without notifying the accessory apparatus of a communication error in a case where the first error is included in a first command and data periodically received from the accessory apparatus.
6. The camera according to claim 4, wherein the camera processor is configured to notify the accessory apparatus of a communication error and to request the accessory apparatus to resend previously transmitted data in a case where the first error is included in a second command and data aperiodically received from the accessory apparatus.
7. The camera according to claim 4, wherein the camera processor is configured to perform recovery processing from a communication error in a case where the number of consecutive detections of the first error becomes larger than a predetermined number.
8. The camera according to claim 4, wherein the camera processor is configured to perform recovery processing from a communication error in a case where the camera processor detects the second error.
9. The camera according to claim 4, wherein in a case where the camera processor detects the second error, the camera processor is configured to notify a communication error by setting a signal level of the notification channel to a low level for a predetermined period.
10. The camera according to claim 4, wherein in a case where the camera processor detects the second error, the camera processor is configured to interrupt time-division communication, to establish communication with each of the plurality of accessory apparatus, and then to resume the time-division communication.
11. The camera according to claim 1, wherein the camera processor is configured to resend previously transmitted data in a case where the camera processor receives an error notification from the accessory apparatus.
12. An accessory apparatus connectable to a camera that is operable while a plurality of accessory apparatus are connected to the camera, the accessory apparatus comprising: a memory storing instructions; and an accessory processor configured to execute the instructions to: control

communication with the camera using a notification channel for notification with the camera and a data communication channel for data communication with the camera, perform first communication for simultaneous communication from the camera to the plurality of accessory apparatus using the data communication channel, and second communication for individual communication with the camera using the data communication channel, and change a content of communication error processing according to a type of error in a case where the accessory processor detects the error based on information that is used to detect the error included in a data packet in performing the second communication with the camera according to a predetermined order for switching between specific accessory apparatus that perform the second communication with the camera among the plurality of accessory apparatus.

13. The accessory apparatus according to claim 12, wherein in a case where the accessory processor detects the error, the accessory processor is configured to change the content of the communication error processing according to a communication status when the error occurs.

14. The accessory apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the information includes at least one of a destination, a command, the number of data per command, a checksum per command, and checksum of the data packet.

15. The accessory apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the error includes a first error that is a minor error that does not cause communication failure, and a second error different from the first error.

16. The accessory apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the accessory processor is configured to continue communication without notifying the camera of a communication error in a case where the first error is included in a first command and data periodically received from the accessory apparatus.

17. The accessory apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the accessory processor is configured to notify the camera of a communication error and to request the camera to resend previously transmitted data in a case where the first error is included in a second command and data aperiodically received from the camera.

18. The accessory apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the accessory processor is configured to perform recovery processing from a communication error in a case where the number of consecutive detections of the first error becomes larger than a predetermined number.

19. The accessory apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the accessory processor is configured to perform recovery processing from a communication error in a case where the accessory processor detects the second error.

20. The accessory apparatus according to claim 15, wherein in a case where the accessory processor detects the second error, the accessory processor is configured to notify a communication error by setting a signal level of the notification channel to a low level for a predetermined period.

21. The accessory apparatus according to claim 15, wherein in a case where the accessory processor detects the second error, the accessory processor is configured to interrupt time-division communication, to establish communication with each of the plurality of accessory apparatus, and then to resume the time-division communication.

22. The accessory apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the accessory processor is configured to resend previously transmitted data in a case where the accessory processor receives an error notification from the accessory apparatus.

23. A communication control method for a camera that is operable while a plurality of accessory apparatus are connected to the camera, the communication control method being configured to control communication with the plurality of accessory apparatus using a notification channel for notification with the plurality of accessory apparatus and a data communication channel for data communication with the plurality of accessory apparatus, and the camera being configured to perform first communication for simultaneous communication with the plurality of accessory apparatus using the data communication channel, and second communication for individual

communication with a specific accessory apparatus among the plurality of accessory apparatus using the data communication channel, the communication control method comprising: causing the camera to change a content of communication error processing according to a type of error in a case where the camera detects the error based on information that is used to detect the error included in a data packet in performing the second communication by switching the specific accessory apparatus in a predetermined order.

24. A communication control method for an accessory apparatus connectable to a camera that is operable while a plurality of accessory apparatus are connected to the camera, the communication control method being configured to control communication with the camera using a notification channel for notification with the camera and a data communication channel for data communication with the camera, and the accessory apparatus being configured to perform first communication for simultaneous communication from the camera to the plurality of accessory apparatus using the data communication channel, and second communication for individual communication with the camera using the data communication channel, the communication control method comprising: causing the accessory apparatus to change a content of communication error processing according to a type of error in a case where the accessory apparatus detects the error based on information that is used to detect the error included in a data packet in performing the second communication with the camera according to a predetermined order for switching between specific accessory apparatus that perform the second communication with the camera among the plurality of accessory apparatus.

25. A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing a program that causes a computer of a camera that is operable while a plurality of accessory apparatus are connected to the camera, to execute the communication control method according to claim 23.

26. A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing a program that causes a computer of an accessory apparatus connectable to a camera that is operable while a plurality of accessory apparatus are connected to the camera, to execute the communication control method according to claim 24.
