

# US Patent & Trademark Office

## Patent Public Search | Text View

---

United States Patent	12387378
Kind Code	B2
Date of Patent	August 12, 2025
Inventor(s)	Oshima; Hiroyuki

---

### Camera device, imaging system, control method, and program

---

#### Abstract

A camera device according to an aspect of the invention includes an imaging unit, an imaging direction adjustment unit, a direction control unit that controls the imaging direction adjustment unit, a camera-side tracking processing unit that analyzes captured image data to acquire first target information indicating the position of a tracking target and outputs the first target information, a camera-side communication unit that receives second target information from a terminal device, and a camera-side target information correction unit that corrects the first target information on the basis of the second target information.

---

<b>Inventors:</b>	<b>Oshima; Hiroyuki (Saitama, JP)</b>
<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>FUJIFILM Corporation (Tokyo, JP)</b>
<b>Family ID:</b>	<b>56563711</b>
<b>Assignee:</b>	<b>FUJIFILM Corporation (Tokyo, JP)</b>
<b>Appl. No.:</b>	<b>18/774659</b>
<b>Filed:</b>	<b>July 16, 2024</b>

#### Prior Publication Data

<b>Document Identifier</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>
US 20240371040 A1	Nov. 07, 2024

#### Foreign Application Priority Data

JP	2015-018641	Feb. 02, 2015
----	-------------	---------------

#### Related U.S. Application Data

continuation parent-doc US 17557581 20211221 US 12073589 child-doc US 18774659  
continuation parent-doc US 16777283 20200130 US 11238614 20220201 child-doc US 17557581

Publication Classification

**Int. Cl.:** **G06T7/80** (20170101); **G03B17/00** (20210101); **G03B17/56** (20210101); **G03B37/04** (20210101); **G06T7/246** (20170101); **G06T7/73** (20170101); **H04N7/18** (20060101); **H04N23/60** (20230101); **H04N23/61** (20230101); **H04N23/63** (20230101); **H04N23/66** (20230101); **H04N23/661** (20230101); **H04N23/67** (20230101); **H04N23/69** (20230101); **H04N23/695** (20230101); **H04N23/80** (20230101); **G03B15/00** (20210101); **H04N23/611** (20230101); **H04N23/667** (20230101)

U.S. Cl.:

**CPC** **G06T7/80** (20170101); **G03B17/00** (20130101); **G03B17/561** (20130101); **G03B37/04** (20130101); **G06T7/248** (20170101); **G06T7/74** (20170101); **H04N7/188** (20130101); **H04N23/60** (20230101); **H04N23/61** (20230101); **H04N23/632** (20230101); **H04N23/66** (20230101); **H04N23/661** (20230101); **H04N23/673** (20230101); **H04N23/69** (20230101); **H04N23/695** (20230101); **H04N23/80** (20230101); **G03B15/00** (20130101); **H04N23/611** (20230101); **H04N23/667** (20230101)

Field of Classification Search

**CPC:** **G06T** (7/80); **G06T** (7/74); **G06T** (7/248); **G03B** (15/00); **G03B** (17/00); **G03B** (17/561); **G03B** (37/04); **H04N** (7/188); **H04N** (23/61); **H04N** (23/661); **H04N** (23/673); **H04N** (23/66); **H04N** (23/69); **H04N** (23/80); **H04N** (23/695); **H04N** (23/632); **H04N** (23/667); **H04N** (23/611)

**USPC:** 348/169

References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Patent No.	Issued Date	Patentee Name	U.S. Cl.	CPC
7421727	12/2007	Oya et al.	N/A	N/A
8170277	12/2011	Michimoto et al.	N/A	N/A
8174581	12/2011	Nakamura	N/A	N/A
8320618	12/2011	Ikenoue	N/A	N/A
8866888	12/2013	Chen et al.	N/A	N/A
9357126	12/2015	Ishii et al.	N/A	N/A
9437009	12/2015	Medioni et al.	N/A	N/A
10070077	12/2017	Westmacott	N/A	N/A
11238614	12/2021	Oshima	N/A	N/A
2004/0227817	12/2003	Oya et al.	N/A	N/A
2006/0055790	12/2005	Chen et al.	N/A	N/A
2009/0028386	12/2008	Michimoto et al.	N/A	N/A
2009/0256925	12/2008	Yoshizumi	N/A	N/A
2009/0262197	12/2008	Nakamura	N/A	N/A
2009/0303327	12/2008	Horiuchi	N/A	N/A

2012/0262592	12/2011	Rabii	N/A	N/A
2012/0307071	12/2011	Nishida	N/A	N/A
2013/0293672	12/2012	Suzuki et al.	N/A	N/A
2014/0049636	12/2013	O'Donnell et al.	N/A	N/A
2015/0286872	12/2014	Medioni et al.	N/A	N/A
2015/0373414	12/2014	Kinoshita	N/A	N/A

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Patent No.	Application Date	Country	CPC
103210639	12/2012	CN	N/A
10-66057	12/1997	JP	N/A
2000-32435	12/1999	JP	N/A
2003-46847	12/2002	JP	N/A
2006-33188	12/2005	JP	N/A
2014-175729	12/2013	JP	N/A

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Advisory Action issued in copending U.S. Appl. No. 17/557,581, dated Oct. 20, 2023. cited by applicant

Chinese Office Action and Search Report for counterpart Chinese Application No.

201580074819.5, dated Sep. 27, 2019, with an English translation. cited by applicant

Final Office Action issued in copending U.S. Appl. No. 17/557,581 dated Jul. 3, 2023. cited by applicant

Final Office Action issued in U.S. Appl. No. 16/777,283 dated Jun. 11, 2021. cited by applicant

International Preliminary Report on Patentability and English translation of the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority (Forms PCT/IB/326, PCT/IB/373 and PCT/ISA/237), dated Aug. 17, 2017, for corresponding International Application No. PCT/JP2015/080741. cited by applicant

International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/210), dated Jan. 19, 2016, for corresponding International Application No. PCT/JP2015/080741. cited by applicant

Japanese Decision to Grant a Patent, dated Jun. 5, 2018, for corresponding Japanese Application No. 2016-573181, with an English machine translation. cited by applicant

Non-Final Office Action issued in copending U.S. Appl. No. 17/557,581, dated Jan. 20, 2023. cited by applicant

Non-Final Office Action issued in copending U.S. Appl. No. 17/557,581, dated Nov. 14, 2023. cited by applicant

Non-Final Office Action issued in U.S. Appl. No. 15/666,263, dated Jun. 18, 2019. cited by applicant

Non-Final Office Action issued in U.S. Appl. No. 16/777,283 dated Dec. 3, 2020. cited by applicant

Notice of Allowance issued in copending U.S. Appl. No. 17/557,581, dated Apr. 29, 2024. cited by applicant

Notice of Allowance issued in U.S. Appl. No. 15/666,263, dated Oct. 31, 2019. cited by applicant

Notice of Allowance issued in U.S. Appl. No. 16/777,283 dated Sep. 24, 2021. cited by applicant

*Primary Examiner:* Ustaris; Joseph G

*Assistant Examiner:* Lee; Jimmy S

*Attorney, Agent or Firm:* Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP

## Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS (1) This application is a Continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/557,581 filed Dec. 21, 2021, which is a Continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/777,283 filed Jan. 30, 2020, patented on Feb. 1, 2022 as U.S. Pat. No. 11,238,614, which is a Continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 15/666,263, filed on Aug. 1, 2017, patented on Mar. 17, 2020 as U.S. Pat. No. 10,593,063, which is a Continuation of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP2015/080741 filed on Oct. 30, 2015, which claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a) to Patent Application No. 2015-18641, filed in Japan on Feb. 2, 2015, the contents of all of which are hereby expressly incorporated by reference in their entirety into the present application.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

### 1. Field of the Invention

(1) The present invention a camera device, an imaging system, a control method, and a program, and more particularly, to a camera device, an imaging system, a control method, and a program that have a function of tracking an object.

### 2. Description of the Related Art

(2) A tracking imaging technique which continuously captures images while tracking a specific object has come into widespread use in the field of, for example, a surveillance camera or a general digital camera. Various methods have been proposed as a method for specifying the position of a specific object as a tracking target. For example, a method has been known which performs image processing for collating the features of a tracking target with a captured image to specify the position of the tracking target in the image.

(3) In addition, a technique has been known which exchanges information between a camera device with a function of tracking a tracking target and a remote terminal device to track the tracking target.

(4) For example, JP2000-032435A discloses a system in which a camera device (camera) and a terminal device (monitor) are connected to each other by a transmission line and the terminal device is provided with an image processing unit that performs image processing for tracking a tracking target.

(5) In recent years, the calculation processing capability of, for example, a smart phone and a tablet terminal has been rapidly improved and image processing for tracking a tracking target is performed, using the smart phone and the tablet terminal as terminal devices, to rapidly perform tracking with high accuracy.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

(6) However, as in the technique disclosed in JP2000-032435A, in a technique in which the image processing unit performing image processing for tracking is provided only in the terminal device, in some cases, when a communication state between the camera device and the terminal device is bad, tracking is not accurately performed. That is, since the communication state between the camera device and the terminal device is bad, it is difficult to transmit image data captured by the camera device which is required for image processing (tracking process) for tracking a tracking target and to transmit the analysis result of the tracking process performed by the terminal device. As a result, in some cases, it is difficult to accurately control the imaging direction of the camera device.

(7) It is considered that the camera device performs the tracking process as measures in a case in which the communication state between the camera device and the terminal device is bad. However, in general, the calculation capability of the camera device is lower than the calculation capability of the smart phone or the tablet terminal used as the terminal device. Therefore, it is

considered that, when the camera device performs the tracking process, the accuracy of tracking is reduced.

(8) In addition, a method is considered which shifts the tracking process of the terminal device to the tracking process of the camera device in a case in which the communication state between the camera device and the terminal device is bad. However, when the camera device starts the tracking process again at the time of communication failure, it takes time to perform an initial operation for searching for the tracking target. As a result, it is difficult to smoothly track the tracking target.

(9) The invention has been made in view of the above-mentioned problems and an object of the invention is to provide a camera device, an imaging system, a control method, and a program that enable a terminal device to rapidly perform image processing for tracking a tracking target with high accuracy in a case in which a communication state between the camera device and the terminal device is good and can smoothly continue to track the tracking target even in a case in which the communication state between the camera device and the terminal device is bad.

(10) According to an aspect of the invention, there is provided a camera device comprising: an imaging unit that continuously acquires captured image data; an imaging direction adjustment unit that adjusts an imaging direction of the imaging unit; a direction control unit that controls the imaging direction adjustment unit; a camera-side tracking processing unit that analyzes the captured image data to acquire first target information indicating a position of a tracking target and outputs the first target information; a camera-side communication unit that can communicate with a terminal device which operates the camera device and receives second target information from the terminal device; and a camera-side target information correction unit that corrects the first target information on the basis of the second target information. In a case in which both the first target information and the second target information are input, the direction control unit controls the imaging direction adjustment unit on the basis of the second target information. In a case in which only one of the first target information and the second target information is input, the direction control unit controls the imaging direction adjustment unit on the basis of the input information of the first target information and the second target information.

(11) According to this aspect, the imaging direction of the imaging unit is controlled on the basis of the first target information which is the analysis result of the captured image data by the camera device or the second target information which is the analysis result of the captured image data by the terminal device. Therefore, in this aspect, in a case in which a communication state between the camera device and the terminal device is good, tracking is rapidly performed with high accuracy on the basis of the second target information. Even in a case in which the communication state between the camera device and the terminal device is bad, the tracking target is continuously tracked on the basis of the first target information. According to this aspect, since the first target information is corrected on the basis of the second target information, it is possible to improve the accuracy of the first target information and to reduce the time required for the initial operation for detecting the tracking target again. The tracking process performed by the camera device in a case in which the communication state between the camera device and the terminal device is bad is smoothly shifted to the tracking process performed by the terminal device.

(12) Preferably, on the basis of the first target information at a first time which is acquired by analyzing first captured image data acquired at the first time, the camera-side tracking processing unit analyzes second captured image data acquired at a second time after the first time to acquire the first target information at the second time. Preferably, in a case in which the first target information at the first time is corrected on the basis of the second target information, the camera-side tracking processing unit acquires the first target information at the second time on the basis of the corrected first target information at the first time.

(13) According to this aspect, the first target information at the first time is corrected on the basis of the second target information at the first time and the first target information at the second time is acquired on the basis of the corrected first target information at the first time. Therefore, in this

aspect, the camera device performs the tracking process on the basis of the corrected first target information. As a result, the camera device can accurately perform the tracking process.

(14) Preferably, the camera-side target information correction unit substitutes the content of the first target information with the content of the second target information to correct the first target information.

(15) According to this aspect, since the content of the first target information is substituted with the content of the second target information, it is possible to effectively correct the first target information with high accuracy.

(16) Preferably, the camera-side target information correction unit determines whether to correct the first target information on the basis of a position of the tracking target specified on the basis of the first target information and a position of the tracking target specified on the basis of the second target information.

(17) According to this aspect, since it is determined whether to correct the first target information on the basis of the position of the tracking target based on the first target information and the position of the tracking target based on the second target information, it is possible to effectively correct the first target information.

(18) Preferably, the camera-side target information correction unit calculates a difference distance indicating a distance between the position of the tracking target specified on the basis of the first target information and the position of the tracking target specified on the basis of the second target information. Preferably, the camera-side target information correction unit corrects the first target information in a case in which the difference distance is equal to or greater than a first threshold value and does not correct the first target information in a case in which the difference distance is less than the first threshold value.

(19) According to this aspect, it is determined whether to correct the first target information on the basis of the position of the tracking target based on the first target information and the position of the tracking target based on the second target information. Therefore, it is possible to effectively correct the first target information.

(20) Preferably, the camera-side target information correction unit includes a timer and determines whether to correct the first target information on the basis of information from the timer.

(21) According to this aspect, it is determined whether to correct the first target information on the basis of the information from the timer. Therefore, it is possible to stably correct the first target information.

(22) Preferably, the camera-side target information correction unit periodically determines whether to correct the first target information.

(23) According to this aspect, it is periodically determined whether to correct the first target information. Therefore, it is possible to stably correct the first target information.

(24) Preferably, the terminal device further includes a frame rate monitoring unit that monitors a frame rate of the captured image data transmitted to the camera-side communication unit.

(25) According to this aspect, since the terminal device with which the camera device communicates is provided with the frame rate monitoring unit, it is possible to accurately check the communication state between the camera device and the terminal device.

(26) Preferably, the camera-side target information correction unit does not correct the first target information in a case in which the frame rate monitored by the frame rate monitoring unit is equal to or less than a second threshold value.

(27) According to this aspect, in a case in which the frame rate monitored by the frame rate monitoring unit is equal to or less than the second threshold value, the first target information is not corrected since the reliability of the first target information is reduced. Therefore, in a case in which the accuracy of the second target information calculated by the terminal device is high, it is possible to correct the first target information.

(28) Preferably, the terminal device includes a terminal-side target information correction unit that

corrects the second target information on the basis of the first target information. Preferably, in a case in which, after the frame rate monitored by the frame rate monitoring unit is equal to or less than the second threshold value, the frame rate is equal to or greater than a third threshold value, the terminal-side target information correction unit corrects the second target information.

(29) According to this aspect, in a case in which, after the communication state between the camera device and the terminal device is bad, the communication state between the camera device and the terminal device is good, the second target device of the terminal device is corrected on the basis of the first target information of the camera device. Therefore, in this aspect, it is possible to reduce the time required for the terminal device that detects a tracking target to perform the initial operation. As a result, the terminal device can rapidly perform the tracking process with high accuracy.

(30) Preferably, a plurality of the terminal devices are connected to the camera device through terminal-side communication units of the plurality of terminal devices. Preferably, the terminal-side communication unit of each of the plurality of terminal devices outputs information of the frame rate monitored by the frame rate monitoring unit and the second target information. Preferably, the camera-side target information correction unit compares the information items of the frame rates output from the terminal-side communication units of the terminal devices and corrects the first target information on the basis of the second target information which is output from the terminal-side communication unit of a terminal device with the highest frame rate.

(31) According to this aspect, the first target information is corrected on the basis of the second target information of the terminal device with the highest frame rate among the plurality of terminal devices that communicate with the camera device. Therefore, it is possible to correct the first target information with high accuracy.

(32) Preferably, the camera device further comprises a communication monitoring unit that monitors a communication state with the terminal device.

(33) According to this aspect, since the terminal device includes the communication monitoring unit monitoring the communication state, it is possible to detect the communication state between the camera device and the terminal device with high accuracy.

(34) Preferably, the camera-side target information correction unit does not correct the first target information in a case in which the communication state monitored by the communication monitoring unit is a disconnected state.

(35) According to this aspect, in a case in which the communication state monitored by the communication monitoring unit of the terminal device is the disconnected state, the first target information is not corrected. Therefore, it is possible to accurately correct the first target information.

(36) Preferably, the terminal device includes a terminal-side target information correction unit that corrects the second target information on the basis of the first target information. Preferably, the terminal-side target information correction unit corrects the second target information in a case in which, after the communication state monitored by the communication monitoring unit changes to the disconnected state, the communication state changes to a reconnected state.

(37) According to this aspect, in a case in which, after the communication between the camera device and the terminal device changes to a bad state, the communication between the camera device and the terminal device changes to a good state, the second target information of the terminal device is corrected on the basis of the first target information of the camera device. Therefore, in this aspect, it is possible to reduce the time required for the terminal device that detects a tracking target to perform the initial operation. As a result, the terminal device can rapidly perform the tracking process with high accuracy.

(38) According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided an imaging system comprising a camera device and a terminal device. The camera device includes: an imaging unit that continuously acquires captured image data; an imaging direction adjustment unit that adjusts an

imaging direction of the imaging unit; a direction control unit that controls the imaging direction adjustment unit; a camera-side tracking processing unit that analyzes the captured image data to acquire first target information indicating a position of a tracking target and outputs the first target information; a camera-side communication unit; and a camera-side target information correction unit that corrects the first target information on the basis of second target information. The terminal device includes: a terminal-side communication unit that can communicate with the camera-side communication unit; and a terminal-side tracking processing unit that analyzes the captured image data to acquire the second target information indicating the position of the tracking target and outputs the second target information through the terminal-side communication unit. The camera-side communication unit outputs the received second target information. In a case in which both the first target information and the second target information are received, the direction control unit controls the imaging direction adjustment unit on the basis of the second target information. In a case in which only one of the first target information and the second target information is received, the direction control unit controls the imaging direction adjustment unit on the basis of the received information of the first target information and the second target information.

(39) According to still another aspect of the invention, there is provided a method for controlling a camera device comprising an imaging unit that continuously acquires captured image data, an imaging direction adjustment unit that adjusts an imaging direction of the imaging unit, a direction control unit that controls the imaging direction adjustment unit, a camera-side tracking processing unit that analyzes the captured image data to acquire first target information indicating a position of a tracking target and outputs the first target information, a camera-side communication unit that can communicate with a terminal device which operates the camera device and receives second target information from the terminal device, and a camera-side target information correction unit that corrects the first target information on the basis of the second target information. The method comprises: in a case in which both the first target information and the second target information are input, controlling the imaging direction adjustment unit on the basis of the second target information; and, in a case in which only one of the first target information and the second target information is input, controlling the imaging direction adjustment unit on the basis of the input information of the first target information and the second target information.

(40) According to yet another aspect of the invention, there is provided a program that causes a computer to perform a method for controlling a camera device comprising an imaging unit that continuously acquires captured image data, an imaging direction adjustment unit that adjusts an imaging direction of the imaging unit, a direction control unit that controls the imaging direction adjustment unit, a camera-side tracking processing unit that analyzes the captured image data to acquire first target information indicating a position of a tracking target and outputs the first target information, a camera-side communication unit that can communicate with a terminal device which operates the camera device and receives second target information from the terminal device, and a camera-side target information correction unit that corrects the first target information on the basis of the second target information. The method includes: in a case in which both the first target information and the second target information are input, controlling the imaging direction adjustment unit on the basis of the second target information; and in a case in which only one of the first target information and the second target information is input, controlling the imaging direction adjustment unit on the basis of the input information of the first target information and the second target information.

(41) According to the invention, the imaging direction of the imaging unit is controlled on the basis of the first target information which is the analysis result of the captured image data by the camera device or the second target information which is the analysis result of the captured image data by the terminal device. Therefore, in the invention, in a case in which a communication state between the camera device and the terminal device is good, tracking is rapidly performed with high accuracy on the basis of the second target information. Even in a case in which the communication



state between the camera device and the terminal device is bad, the tracking target is continuously tracked on the basis of the first target information. According to the invention, since the first target information is corrected on the basis of the second target information, it is possible to improve the accuracy of the first target information and to reduce the time required for the initial operation for detecting the tracking target again. The tracking process performed by the camera device in a case in which the communication state between the camera device and the terminal device is bad is smoothly shifted to the tracking process performed by the terminal device.

---

## Description

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- (1) FIG. 1 is an external perspective view illustrating an example of an imaging system.
- (2) FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating an example of the functional structure of a camera device.
- (3) FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating an example of the functional structure of a terminal device.
- (4) FIGS. 4A and 4B are diagrams illustrating a direction control unit.
- (5) FIG. 5 is a block diagram illustrating an example of the functional structure of a camera-side target information correction unit.
- (6) FIGS. 6A to 6C are diagrams illustrating a camera-side tracking processing unit.
- (7) FIG. 7 is a flowchart illustrating the flow of the operation of the camera device and the terminal device.
- (8) FIG. 8 is a block diagram illustrating an example of the functional structure of a camera-side target information correction unit in Modification Example 1 of the camera device.
- (9) FIG. 9 is a block diagram illustrating an example of the functional structure of a camera-side target information correction unit in Modification Example 2 of the camera device.
- (10) FIG. 10 is an external perspective view illustrating a camera device and a terminal device in Modification Example 3.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

- (11) Hereinafter, preferred embodiments of the invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
- (12) FIG. 1 is an external perspective view illustrating an example of an imaging system **300** according to an aspect of the invention. The imaging system **300** comprises a terminal device **100** (smart phone) and a camera device **10** (pan/tilt camera).
- (13) The terminal device **100** is used to operate the camera device **10**. In the example shown in FIG. 1, the terminal device **100** wirelessly operates the camera device **10**. However, the invention is not limited thereto. The terminal device **100** may be connected to the camera device **10** in a wired manner.
- (14) The camera device **10** mainly includes a device body **12**, a base **14**, a holding portion **16** which is fixed to the base **14** and holds an imaging unit **20** so as to be rotatable, and a dome cover **18** which covers the imaging unit **20**.
- (15) The base **14** is provided so as to be rotatable about the axis of the vertical direction Z of the device body **12** and is rotated about the axis of the vertical direction Z by a pan driving unit **34** (FIG. 2).
- (16) The holding portion **16** includes a gear **16A** that is provided on the same axis as the horizontal direction X. A driving force is transmitted from a tilt driving unit **36** (FIG. 2) through the gear **16A** to rotate (tilt) the imaging unit **20** in the vertical direction.
- (17) The dome cover **18** is a dustproof and drip-proof cover and preferably has a domic shape which has a constant thickness and has, as a center of curvature, an intersection point between the axis of the horizontal direction X and the axis of the vertical direction Z such that the optical

performance of the imaging unit **20** does not change, regardless of an optical axis direction **L** of the imaging unit **20**.

(18) It is preferable to provide a tripod attachment portion (for example, tripod screws) (not illustrated) on the rear surface of the device body **12**.

(19) The camera device **10** is provided with an imaging start button **19** that instructs to start imaging and a power switch (not illustrated). The camera device **10** includes a camera-side communication unit **50** (FIG. 2) and mainly receives various types of operation instructions input from an external terminal device (a smart phone in this example) **100** using wireless communication with the terminal device **100**. The camera device **10** acquires information related to the position of a tracking target obtained by analyzing captured image data from the terminal device **100**, using wireless communication. The terminal device **100** will be described with reference to FIG. 3.

(20) FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating an example of the functional structure of the camera device **10** (pan/tilt camera).

(21) The camera device **10** can capture both still images and moving images and mainly comprises the imaging unit **20**, an imaging direction adjustment unit **30**, a control unit **40**, a signal processing unit **41**, a camera-side tracking processing unit **65**, a camera-side target information correction unit **64**, a camera-side display unit **61**, operation unit **60**, a memory **62**, a camera-side communication unit **50**, and a camera-side communication monitoring unit **51**.

(22) The imaging unit **20** includes, for example, an imaging lens **22** and an imaging element (CMOS) **24** and continuously acquire captured image data. The imaging lens **22** is a prime lens or a zoom lens and forms an object image on an imaging surface of the imaging element **24**. A focus lens, a variable magnification lens (in the case of a zoom lens), and a stop **23** included in the imaging lens **22** are driven by a lens driving unit **26**.

(23) The imaging element **24** is a color imaging element in which color filters of three primary colors, that is, red (R), green (G), and blue (B) are arranged in a predetermined pattern (a Bayer array, a G stripe R/B full-checkered pattern, an X-Trans (registered trademark) array, or a honeycomb array) for each pixel and is a complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS) image sensor. However, the imaging element **24** is not limited to the CMOS image sensor and may be a charge coupled device (CCD) image sensor.

(24) The imaging element **24** is driven by a CMOS driver **28** including, for example, a vertical driver and a horizontal driver and a timing generator (TG) **29**. A pixel signal corresponding to the amount of incident object light (a digital signal corresponding to signal charge accumulated in each pixel) is read from the imaging element **24**.

(25) The imaging direction adjustment unit **30** comprises, for example, a pan/tilt mechanism **32**, the pan driving unit **34**, and the tilt driving unit **36** and adjusts the imaging direction of the imaging unit **20**. As illustrated in FIG. 1, the pan/tilt mechanism **32** includes a pan mechanism that rotates the imaging unit **20** in the horizontal direction (pan direction) with respect to the device body **12** and a tilt mechanism that rotates the imaging unit **20** in the vertical direction (tilt direction) with respect to the device body **12**. The pan/tilt mechanism **32** includes a home position sensor that detects the reference position of a rotation angle (pan angle) in the pan direction and a home position sensor that detects the reference position of an inclination angle (tilt angle) in the tilt direction.

(26) The pan driving unit **34** and the tilt driving unit **36** each include a stepping motor and a motor driver and output a driving force to the pan/tilt mechanism **32** to drive the pan/tilt mechanism **32**.

(27) The signal processing unit **41** performs signal processing, such as an offset process, a gain control process including white balance correction and sensitivity correction, a gamma correction process, demosaic processing (demosaicing process), and an RGB/YC conversion process, for a digital image signal (captured image data) which is input from the imaging unit **20**. Here, the demosaicing process is a process which calculates all color information of each pixel from a

mosaic image corresponding to the color filter array of a single-plate-type color imaging element and is also referred to as a synchronization process. For example, in the case of an imaging element including color filters of three colors, that is, R, G, and B, the demosaicing process calculates the color information of all of R, G, and B of each pixel from an RGB mosaic image. In addition, the RGB/YC conversion process is a process which generates brightness data Y and color difference data items Cb and Cr from the demosaiced RGB image data. The signal processing unit **41** transmits the captured image data subjected to the above-mentioned processes to the camera-side tracking processing unit **65**.

(28) The camera-side tracking processing unit **65** analyzes the captured image data acquired from the signal processing unit **41** to acquire first target information indicating the position of a tracking target.

(29) The camera-side tracking processing unit **65** has a function that, when an object (tracking target) is specified as the tracking target, detects the coordinates indicating the position of the tracking target even when the tracking target moves. Specifically, first, the tracking target is automatically or manually set. Then, the image of the tracking target is detected from a captured moving image (captured image data) which is sequentially obtained from the signal processing unit **41** by a face detection process or a pattern matching process. Here, since the face detection process or the pattern matching process performed in the camera-side tracking processing unit **65** is known, the description thereof will not be repeated. In addition, as another method for detecting the object, in a case in which a moving body is the object, the object may be detected by a moving body detection method.

(30) The camera-side target information correction unit **64** corrects the first target information calculated by the camera-side tracking processing unit **65** on the basis of second target information calculated by a terminal-side tracking processing unit **191** (FIG. 3) of the terminal device **100**. The camera-side target information correction unit **64** may directly acquire the first target information from the camera-side tracking processing unit **65** or may acquire the first target information through the control unit **40**. In addition, the camera-side target information correction unit **64** acquires the second target information through the control unit **40**. The camera-side target information correction unit **64** will be described in detail below.

(31) The control unit **40** comprises, as main components, an imaging control unit **42**, a lens control unit **43**, a direction control unit **44**, and an operation control unit **46**.

(32) The imaging control unit **42** issues, for example, an instruction to discharge the charge accumulated in a capacitor of each pixel of the imaging element **24** or an instruction to read a signal corresponding to the charge accumulated in the capacitor through the CMOS driver **28** and the TG **29** and performs imaging control.

(33) The lens control unit **43** controls the focus lens, the variable magnification lens, and the stop **23** included in the imaging lens **22** through the lens driving unit **26** and performs, for example, auto focus (AF) control for moving the focus lens to an in-focus position. The AF control is performed by integrating the absolute values of high-frequency components of a digital signal corresponding to an AF area, detecting an in-focus position where the integrated value (AF evaluation value) is the maximum, and moving the focus lens to the detected in-focus position.

(34) The direction control unit **44** controls the imaging direction adjustment unit **30**. Specifically, in a case in which an automatic tracking mode is set, the direction control unit **44** controls the imaging direction adjustment unit **30** such that an object (tracking target) detected by the camera-side tracking processing unit **65** is located at the center of the angle of view. In a case in which the automatic tracking mode is not set, the direction control unit **44** controls the imaging direction adjustment unit **30** in response to an instruction transmitted from the operation unit **60** or the terminal device **100**. The direction control unit **44** controls the imaging direction adjustment unit **30** on the basis of the first target information or the second target information, regardless of whether the automatic tracking mode is set.

(35) The operation control unit **46** controls the operation of the imaging control unit **42**, the lens control unit **43**, and the direction control unit **44**. For example, the operation control unit **46** controls the direction control unit **44** such that the pan/tilt mechanism **32** is operated or stopped. In addition, the operation control unit **46** transmits the first target information and the second target information to the direction control unit **44** and controls the pan/tilt mechanism **32** through the direction control unit **44** such that the tracking target is tracked. The operation control unit **46** stops the recording of a captured moving image to the memory **62** or cancels the stopping. The operation control unit **46** stops the capture of a moving image by the imaging unit **20** and changes the mode to a power saving mode or cancels the power saving mode.

(36) The camera-side communication unit **50** performs wireless communication with the external terminal device **100** illustrated in FIG. **1** and receives various operation instructions from the terminal device **100**, using wireless communication. For example, the camera-side communication unit **50** receives the second target information calculated in the terminal-side tracking processing unit **191** (FIG. **3**) of the terminal device **100**. In addition, the camera-side communication unit **50** can transmit, for example, a recording image to the terminal device **100** and can transmit the moving image (captured image data) which has been captured by the imaging unit **20** and then processed by the signal processing unit **41** to the terminal device **100**. In this way, a recording image, such as a moving image, can be recorded in the terminal device **100** or an external recording medium or a live view image can be displayed on a display unit (display input unit **120**) of the terminal device **100**.

(37) The camera-side communication monitoring unit **51** monitors a communication state between the camera-side communication unit **50** and the terminal-side communication unit **110**. The camera-side communication monitoring unit **51** can monitor the communication state between the camera-side communication unit **50** and the terminal-side communication unit **110**, using a known method. For example, the camera-side communication monitoring unit **51** can monitor the communication state between the camera-side communication unit **50** and the terminal-side communication unit **110** on the basis of radio waves transmitted from the terminal-side communication unit **110**.

(38) The operation unit **60** includes, for example, the imaging start button **19** (FIG. **1**) and a power button which are provided in the device body **12** and can be used to input the same operation instruction as the operation instruction from the terminal device **100**.

(39) The camera-side display unit **61** functions as an image display unit which displays, for example, a live view image and a playback image and also functions as a user interface unit for displaying a menu screen and for setting and inputting various parameters, in cooperation with the operation unit **60**.

(40) The memory **62** includes, for example, a synchronous dynamic random access memory (SDRAM) serving as a storage area that temporarily stores still images or moving images or a work area that performs various types of arithmetic processing or a read only memory (ROM) that stores an imaging program and various kinds of data required for control. The operation control unit **46** controls the recording of the moving image captured by the imaging unit **20** to the memory **62**.

(41) FIG. **3** is a block diagram illustrating an example of the functional structure of the terminal device **100**.

(42) As shown in FIG. **3**, the terminal device **100** comprises, as main components, a terminal-side communication unit **110**, the display input unit **120**, a calling unit **130**, an operation unit **140**, a camera unit **141**, a storage unit **150**, an external input/output unit **160**, a global positioning system (GPS) receiving unit **170**, a motion sensor unit **180**, a power supply unit **190**, a terminal-side tracking processing unit **191**, a terminal-side target information correction unit **193**, a terminal-side communication monitoring unit **195**, and a main control unit **101**. In addition, the terminal device **100** has, as a main function, a wireless communication function which performs mobile wireless communication through a base station apparatus BS and a mobile communication network NW.

(43) The terminal-side communication unit **110** performs wireless communication with the base station apparatus **BS** which is accommodated in the mobile communication network **NW** in response to an instruction from the main control unit **101**. The wireless communication is used to transmit and receive various types of file data, such as voice data and image data, and electronic mail data or to receive, for example, web data or streaming data. In this example, the terminal-side communication unit **110** of the terminal device **100** transmits various operation instruction inputs to the camera device **10** or receives, for example, a live view image (captured image data) and a recording image from the camera device **10**.

(44) The display input unit **120** displays, for example, images (still images and moving images) or text information to visually transmit information to the user and detects the user's operation for the displayed information under the control of the main control unit **101**. The display input unit **120** comprises a display panel **121** and an operation panel (touch panel) **122**. It is preferable that the display panel **121** is a 3D display panel in a case in which a 3D image is viewed.

(45) The display panel **121** uses, for example, a liquid crystal display (LCD) or an organic electroluminescence display (OLED) as a display device.

(46) The operation panel (input unit) **122** is a device that is provided such that an image displayed on a display surface of the display panel **121** is visually recognized and detects one or a plurality of coordinate points operated by a finger of the user or a stylus. When the device is operated by a finger of the user or a stylus, a detection signal which is generated by the operation is output to the main control unit **101**. Then, the main control unit **101** detects an operation position (coordinates) on the display panel **121** on the basis of the received detection signal.

(47) As illustrated in FIG. 1, the display panel **121** and the operation panel **122** of the terminal device **100** are integrated to form the display input unit **120** and the operation panel **122** is provided so as to completely cover the display panel **121**. In a case in which this structure is used, the operation panel **122** may have a function of detecting the user's operation even in a region other than the display panel **121**. In other words, the operation panel **122** may comprise a detection region (hereinafter, referred to as a display region) for an overlap portion which overlaps the display panel **121** and a detection region (hereinafter, referred to as a non-display region) for an outer edge portion which does not overlap the display panel **121**.

(48) The size of the display region may be exactly equal to the size of the display panel **121**. However, the sizes are not necessarily equal to each other. The operation panel **122** may comprise two sensitive regions, that is, an outer edge portion and an inner portion other than the outer edge portion. The width of the outer edge portion is appropriately designed according to, for example, the size of a housing **102**. Examples of a position detecting method which is used in the operation panel **122** include a matrix switching method, a resistive film method, a surface elastic wave method, an infrared method, an electromagnetic induction method, and a capacitive sensing method. Any of the methods may be used.

(49) The calling unit **130** comprises a speaker **131** and a microphone **132**. The calling unit **130** converts the voice of the user which is input through the microphone **132** into voice data which can be processed by the main control unit **101** and outputs the converted voice data to the main control unit **101**. In addition, the calling unit **130** decodes voice data received by the terminal-side communication unit **110** or the external input/output unit **160** and outputs the decoded voice data from the speaker **131**. As illustrated in FIG. 1, for example, the speaker **131** and the microphone **132** can be mounted on the same surface as the display input unit **120**.

(50) The operation unit **140** is a hardware key which uses, for example, a key switch and receives instructions from the user. For example, the operation unit **140** is a push button switch which is mounted on a lower surface of a lower portion of the display input unit **120** of the housing **102** of the terminal device **100**, is turned on when it is pressed by, for example, a finger, and is turned off by the restoring force of a spring when the finger is taken off.

(51) The storage unit **150** stores a control program or control data of the main control unit **101**,

address data which is associated with, for example, the names or phone numbers of communication partners, and transmitted and received electronic mail data, web data which is downloaded by web browsing, or downloaded content data. In addition, the storage unit **150** temporarily stores, for example, streaming data. The storage unit **150** includes an internal storage unit **151** which is provided in a smart phone and an external storage unit **152** which has a slot for a detachable external memory. The internal storage unit **151** and the external storage unit **152** forming the storage unit **150** may be implemented by a storage medium, such as a flash memory, a hard disk, a multimedia-card-micro-type memory, a card-type memory (for example, a MicroSD (registered trademark) memory), a random access memory (RAM), or a read only memory (ROM).

(52) The external input/output unit **160** functions as an interface with all of the external apparatuses connected to the terminal device **100** and is directly or indirectly connected to other external apparatuses by communication (for example, universal serial bus (USB) communication) or a network (for example, the Internet, a wireless local area network (LAN), a Bluetooth (registered trademark) network, a radio frequency identification (RFID) network, an infrared data association (IrDA (registered trademark)) network, an ultra wideband (UWB) (registered trademark) network, or a ZigBee (registered trademark) network).

(53) Examples of the external apparatus connected to the terminal device **100** include a wired/wireless headset, a wired/wireless external charger, a wired/wireless data port, a memory card which is connected through a card socket, a subscriber identity module (SIM)/user identity module (UIM) card, an external audio/video apparatus which is connected through an audio/video input/output (I/O) terminal, a wirelessly connected external audio/video apparatus, a smart phone which is connected wirelessly or in a wired manner, a personal computer which is connected wirelessly or in a wired manner, a personal digital assistant (PDA) which is connected wirelessly or in a wired manner, a personal computer which is connected wirelessly or in a wired manner, and an earphone. The external input/output unit **160** can transmit data which is received from the external apparatus to each component of the terminal device **100** or can transmit data in the terminal device **100** to the external apparatus.

(54) The GPS receiving unit **170** receives GPS signals transmitted from GPS satellites STI to STn and performs a position measurement process on the basis of a plurality of received GPS signals to detect a position including the latitude, longitude, and height of the terminal device **100**, in response to an instruction from the main control unit **101**. When the GPS receiving unit **170** can acquire positional information from the terminal-side communication unit **110** or the external input/output unit **160** (for example, a wireless LAN), it can detect the position using the positional information.

(55) The motion sensor unit **180** comprises, for example, a triaxial acceleration sensor and detects the physical movement of the terminal device **100** in response to an instruction from the main control unit **101**. When the physical movement of the terminal device **100** is detected, the moving direction or acceleration of the terminal device **100** is detected. The detection result is output to the main control unit **101**.

(56) The power supply unit **190** supplies power which is stored in a battery (not illustrated) to each unit of the terminal device **100** in response to an instruction from the main control unit **101**.

(57) The main control unit **101** comprises a microprocessor, operates on the basis of the control program or control data stored in the storage unit **150**, and controls the overall operation of each unit of the terminal device **100**. The main control unit **101** has an application processing function and a mobile communication control function of controlling each unit of a communication system in order to perform voice communication or data communication through the terminal-side communication unit **110**.

(58) The application processing function is implemented by the operation of the main control unit **101** based on the application software which is stored in the storage unit **150**. Examples of the application processing function include an infrared communication function which controls the

external input/output unit **160** such that data communication with an opposing apparatus is performed, an electronic mail function which transmits and receives electronic mail, and a web browsing function which browses web pages.

(59) The main control unit **101** has an image processing function that displays a video on the display input unit **120** on the basis of image data (still image data or moving image data) such as received data or downloaded streaming data. The image processing function means the function of the main control unit **101** decoding the image data, performing image processing for the decoding result, and displaying the image on the display input unit **120**.

(60) The main control unit **101** performs display control for the display panel **121** and operation detection control for detecting the user's operation through the operation unit **140** and the operation panel **122**.

(61) The main control unit **101** performs display to display a software key, such as an icon for starting application software or a scroll bar, or a window for creating electronic mail. The scroll bar means a software key for receiving an instruction to move a displayed portion of an image that is too large to fit into the display region of the display panel **121**.

(62) The main control unit **101** performs operation detection control to detect the user's operation through the operation unit **140** and the operation panel **122**.

(63) In addition, the main control unit **101** performs the operation detection control to detect the user's operation through the operation unit **140**, to receive an operation for the icon or the input of a character string to an input field of the window through the operation panel **122**, or to receive a request to scroll the displayed image through the scroll bar.

(64) The main control unit **101** has a touch panel control function that performs the operation detection control to determine whether the position of an operation for the operation panel **122** is an overlap portion (display region) which overlaps the display panel **121** or an outer edge portion (non-display region) which does not overlap the display panel **121** other than the overlap portion and controls a sensitive region of the operation panel **122** or the display position of the software key.

(65) The main control unit **101** can detect a gesture operation for the operation panel **122** and can perform a predetermined function according to the detected gesture operation. The gesture operation does not mean a simple touch operation according to the related art, but means an operation which draws a trace using a finger, an operation which designates a plurality of positions at the same time, or a combination thereof which draws a trace for at least one of the plurality of positions.

(66) The camera unit **141** is a digital camera which performs electronic imaging (imaging) using an imaging element such as a complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS) sensor or a charge-coupled device (CCD).

(67) The camera unit **141** can convert captured image data into image data which is compressed in, for example, a Joint Photographic Coding Experts Group (JPEG) format and record the converted image data in the storage unit **150** or output the converted image data through the external input/output unit **160** or the terminal-side communication unit **110**, under the control of the main control unit **101**.

(68) In the terminal device **100** illustrated in FIG. **1**, the camera unit **141** is mounted on the same surface as the display input unit **120**. However, the mounting position of the camera unit **141** is not limited thereto. For example, the camera unit **141** may be mounted on the rear surface of the display input unit **120** or a plurality of camera units **141** may be mounted. In a case in which a plurality of camera units **141** are mounted, the camera units **141** which are used to capture images may be switched such that a single camera unit captures images or the plurality of camera units **141** may be simultaneously used to capture images.

(69) The camera unit **141** can be used for various functions of the terminal device **100**. For example, the image captured by the camera unit **141** can be displayed on the display panel **121** or

the image captured by the camera unit **141** can be used as one of the operation inputs of the operation panel **122**. When detecting the position, the GPS receiving unit **170** may detect the position with reference to the image from the camera unit **141**. In addition, the optical axis direction of the camera unit **141** in the terminal device **100** may be determined or the current usage environment may be determined, with reference to the image from the camera unit **141**, using the triaxial acceleration sensor or without using the triaxial acceleration sensor. Of course, the image from the camera unit **141** may be used in the application software.

(70) In this example, application software for operating the camera device **10** is downloaded through, for example, a network and is stored in the storage unit **150**. The main control unit **101** is operated by the application processing function of the terminal device **100** according to the downloaded application software to make the general-purpose terminal device **100** function as a user interface unit for operating the camera device **10**.

(71) The terminal-side tracking processing unit **191** analyzes captured image data to acquire the second target information indicating the position of the tracking target and outputs the second target information to the camera device **10** through the terminal-side communication unit **110**. That is, the terminal-side tracking processing unit **191** has a function of detecting the coordinates of the position of the tracking target, similarly to the camera-side tracking processing unit **65**.

Specifically, the terminal-side tracking processing unit **191** detects the tracking target, using a face detection process or a pattern matching process. Since the face detection process or the pattern matching process is known, the description thereof will not be repeated.

(72) As described above, in the camera device **10**, the camera-side tracking processing unit **65** analyzes the captured image data to calculate the first target information. In the terminal device **100**, the terminal-side tracking processing unit **191** analyzes the captured image data to calculate the second target information.

(73) Examples of the terminal device **100** include a smart phone and a tablet terminal. In general, in a case in which a smart phone or a tablet terminal is used as the terminal device **100**, in many cases, the calculation capability of the terminal-side tracking processing unit **191** of the terminal device **100** is higher than the calculation capability of the camera-side tracking processing unit **65** of the camera device **10** since the calculation capability of the smart phone and the tablet terminal has rapidly progressed in recent years. Therefore, in the invention, in a case in which the communication state between the camera device **10** and the terminal device **100** is good, it is possible to rapidly perform tracking with high accuracy on the basis of the second target information. Even in a case in which the communication state between the camera device **10** and the terminal device **100** is bad, it is possible to continue to track the tracking target on the basis of the first target information.

(74) The terminal-side target information correction unit **193** corrects the second target information on the basis of the first target information. The terminal-side target information correction unit **193** may correct the second target information at any time or may correct the second target information in a specific case. For example, in a case in which the communication state monitored by the camera-side communication monitoring unit **51** or the terminal-side communication monitoring unit **195** changes to a disconnected state and then changes to a reconnected state, the terminal-side target information correction unit **193** corrects the second target information. For example, in a case in which the frame rate monitored by the frame rate monitoring unit **197** changes to a second threshold value or less and then changes to a third threshold value or more, the terminal-side target information correction unit **193** corrects the second target information with the first target information. The terminal-side target information correction unit **193** can correct the second target information with the first target information, using various methods. For example, the terminal-side target information correction unit **193** substitutes the content (coordinates) of the second target information with the content (coordinates) of the first target information to correct the second target information. Here, the second threshold value and the third threshold value are arbitrary values. For



example, the second threshold value can be set to a value that is less than the third threshold value in order to provide hysteresis.

(75) The terminal-side communication monitoring unit **195** monitors a communication state with the camera-side communication unit **50**. That is, the terminal-side communication monitoring unit **195** monitors the communication state between the camera-side communication unit **50** and the terminal-side communication unit **110**. The terminal-side communication monitoring unit **195** can monitor the communication state between the camera-side communication unit **50** and the terminal-side communication unit **110**, using various methods. For example, the terminal-side communication monitoring unit **195** may include a frame rate monitoring unit **197**. The frame rate monitoring unit **197** may monitor a frame rate between the camera-device-side communication unit and the terminal-side communication unit **110** to monitor the communication state.

(76) Next, the direction control unit **44** (see FIG. 2) provided in the camera device **10** will be described.

(77) FIG. 4 is a diagram illustrating the tracking target information input to the direction control unit **44**. At least one of the first target information or the second target information is input to the direction control unit **44**. The direction control unit **44** may acquire the first target information from the camera-side tracking processing unit **65** or may acquire the first target information from the camera-side target information correction unit **64**. The direction control unit **44** may acquire the second target information from the camera-side communication unit **50**.

(78) FIG. 4A illustrates, for example, a case in which the communication state between the camera device **10** and the terminal device **100** is good. In this case, the first target information corrected by the camera-side target information correction unit **64** and the second target information calculated by the terminal-side tracking processing unit **191** are input to the input direction control unit **44**. In a case in which both the first target information and the second target information are input, the direction control unit **44** controls the imaging direction adjustment unit **30** on the basis of the second target information.

(79) As described above, in general, the terminal device **100** has a higher calculation capability to perform a tracking process than the camera device and the second target information has a higher reliability than the first target information. Therefore, in a case in which the first target information and the second target information are acquired, the direction control unit **44** outputs the second target information to the pan driving unit **34** and the tilt driving unit **36** of the imaging direction adjustment unit **30**. In a case in which the communication state between the camera device **10** and the terminal device **100** is good, the direction control unit **44** controls the imaging direction adjustment unit **30**, using the second target information. Therefore, it is possible to rapidly perform tracking with high accuracy.

(80) FIG. 4B illustrates, for example, a case in which the communication state between the camera device **10** and the terminal device **100** is bad. In a case in which the communication state between the camera device **10** and the terminal device **100** is bad, it is difficult for the camera device **10** to acquire the second target information from the terminal device **100**. Therefore, only the first target information calculated by the camera-side tracking processing unit **65** is input to the direction control unit **44**. Then, the direction control unit **44** controls the imaging direction adjustment unit **30** on the basis of the input first target information.

(81) In a case in which the first target information has been corrected by the camera-side target information correction unit **64**, the corrected first target information is input to the direction control unit **44**. In a case in which the first target information has not been corrected, the first target information which has not been corrected is input to the direction control unit **44**.

(82) Next, the camera-side target information correction unit **64** will be described.

(83) FIG. 5 is a block diagram illustrating an example of the functional structure of the camera-side target information correction unit **64**. The camera-side target information correction unit **64** includes, as main components, a first target information acquisition unit **72**, a second target

information acquisition unit **74**, and a correction unit **76**.

(84) The first target information acquisition unit **72** acquires the first target information from the camera-side tracking processing unit **65**. The second target information acquisition unit **74** acquires the second target information, which has been acquired from the terminal device **100** by the camera-side communication unit **50**, through the control unit **40**.

(85) The correction unit **76** corrects the first target information on the basis of the second target information. The correction unit **76** can correct the first target information on the basis of the second target information, using various methods. For example, the correction unit **76** substitutes the content of the first target information with the content of the second target information to correct the first target information. That is, in a case in which the content of the first target information is the coordinates of the tracking target calculated by the camera-side tracking processing unit **65** and the content of the second target information is the coordinates of the tracking target calculated by the terminal-side tracking processing unit **191**, the correction unit **76** may substitute the coordinates of the content of the first target information with the coordinates of the content of the second target information to correct the first target information.

(86) The first target information corrected by the correction unit **76** is transmitted to the camera-side tracking processing unit **65** and is used for the subsequent tracking process.

(87) Next, the usage pattern of the first target information corrected by the camera-side target information correction unit **64** will be described. The corrected first target information is mainly used in two patterns. As a first usage pattern, in a case in which the communication state between the camera device **10** and the terminal device **100** is bad, the direction control unit **44** controls the imaging direction adjustment unit **30**, using the corrected first target information. As a second usage pattern, the tracking target is tracked using the first target information corrected by the camera-side tracking processing unit **65**. Hereinafter, the process of tracking the tracking target using the first target information corrected by the camera-side tracking processing unit **65** will be described.

(88) FIG. **6** is a diagram illustrating a case in which a tracking target is detected at a second time after a first time on the basis of target information acquired by the camera-side tracking processing unit **65** at the first time.

(89) FIG. **6A** illustrates a first captured image **78** corresponding to first captured image data acquired at the first time. In the case shown in FIG. **6A**, the tracking target is at a C-point **83**. The camera-side tracking processing unit **65** analyzes the first captured image data to acquire the coordinates of an A-point **80** which are the first target information. In addition, the terminal-side tracking processing unit **191** analyzes the first captured image data to acquire the coordinates of a B-point **82** which are the second target information. Here, it is ideal to accurately specify the coordinates of the tracking target (C-point **83**). However, in some cases, it is difficult to accurately specify the coordinates of the tracking target (C-point **83**) due to various causes (see the A-point **80**, the B-point **82**, and the C-point **83** in FIG. **6A**). In addition, in some cases, the first target information (the coordinates of the A-point **80**) calculated by the camera-side tracking processing unit **65** is different from the second target information (the coordinates of the B-point **82**) calculated by the terminal-side tracking processing unit **191** due to, for example, the calculation capability of the camera-side tracking processing unit **65** and the terminal-side tracking processing unit **191**. In many cases, since the calculation capability of the terminal device **100** is generally higher than that of the camera device **10**, the second target information indicates the coordinates closer to the tracking target than the first target information.

(90) Then, the camera-side target information correction unit **64** corrects the first target information on the basis of the second target information. In this way, even when the first target information calculated by the camera-side tracking processing unit **65** is inaccurate, the first target information is corrected on the basis of the second target information. Therefore, it is possible to accurately track the tracking target.

(91) Since the camera-side target information correction unit **64** corrects the first target information on the basis of the second target information, it is possible to improve the accuracy of the first target information and to smoothly shift the tracking process performed in the camera device **10** in a case in which the communication state between the camera device **10** and the terminal device **100** is bad to a tracking process performed in a remote device.

(92) FIG. **6B** and FIG. **6C** illustrate a second captured image **79** corresponding to first captured image data acquired at the second time. Here, in a case in which a tracking target is detected in the second captured image data, the tracking target is detected on the basis of the coordinates of the tracking target acquired at the first time.

(93) In the case shown in FIG. **6B**, an object detection region **84** is scanned in a scanning region **85**, using the B-point **82** as the center, to detect the tracking target. That is, the camera-side tracking processing unit **65** detects the tracking target (C-point **83**) at the second time, using the first target information (the coordinates of the B-point **82**) corrected by the camera-side target information correction unit **64**. In the case shown in FIG. **6C**, the object detection region **84** is scanned in the scanning region **85**, using the A-point **80** as the center, to detect the tracking target. That is, the camera-side tracking processing unit **65** detects the tracking target (C-point **83**) at the second time, using the first target information (the coordinates of the A-point **80**) which has not been corrected by the camera-side target information correction unit **64**.

(94) As shown in FIG. **6B**, when the accuracy of the positional information (coordinates) of the tracking target at the first time is high, the tracking target is rapidly detected at the second time with high accuracy. As shown in FIG. **6C**, when the accuracy of the positional information (coordinates) of the tracking target at the first time is low, it takes time to detect the tracking target at the second time or the detection of the tracking target at the second time is inaccurate or impossible. For this reason, the camera-side target information correction unit **64** corrects the first target information on the basis of the second target information and the camera-side tracking processing unit **65** tracks the tracking target, using the corrected first target information. Therefore, it is possible to rapidly perform tracking with high accuracy.

(95) FIG. **7** is a flowchart illustrating the flow of the operation of the camera device **10** and the terminal device **100**. First, the imaging unit **20** of the camera device **10** acquires captured image data (Step **S11**). Then, the camera-side communication unit **50** of the camera device **10** transmits the acquired captured image data to the terminal device **100** (Step **S12**). The camera-side tracking processing unit **65** acquires the first target information from the captured image data (Step **S13**).

(96) Then, the terminal-side communication unit **110** of the terminal device **100** receives the captured image data (Step **S16**) and the terminal-side tracking processing unit **191** analyzes the received captured image data to acquire the second target information (Step **S17**). Then, the terminal-side communication unit **110** transmits the second target information to the camera device **10** (Step **S18**).

(97) The camera-side communication unit **50** of the camera device **10** receives the transmitted second target information (Step **S14**). Then, the camera-side target information correction unit **64** corrects the first target information on the basis of the second target information (Step **S15**).

(98) As described above, according to this embodiment, the imaging direction of the imaging unit **20** is controlled on the basis of the first target information which is the analysis result of the captured image data by the camera device **10** or the second target information which is the analysis result of the captured image data by the terminal device **100**. Therefore, in this embodiment, in a case in which the communication state between the camera device **10** and the terminal device **100** is good, it is possible to rapidly perform tracking with high accuracy on the basis of the second target information. Even in a case in which the communication state between the camera device **10** and the terminal device **100** is bad, it is possible to continue to track the tracking target on the basis of the first target information.

(99) In addition, according to this embodiment, since the first target information is corrected on the

basis of the second target information, it is possible to improve the accuracy of the first target information and to smoothly shift the tracking process performed in the camera device **10** in a case in which the communication state between the camera device **10** and the terminal device **100** is bad to a tracking process performed in a remote device.

(100) The above-mentioned structures and functions can be appropriately implemented by arbitrary hardware, arbitrary software, or a combination thereof. For example, the invention can also be applied to a program that causes a computer to perform each of the above-mentioned processing steps (procedures), a computer-readable recording medium (non-transitory medium) that stores the program, or a computer in which the program can be installed.

#### Modification Example 1

(101) Next, a modification example (Modification Example 1) of the camera device **10** will be described.

(102) FIG. **8** is a block diagram illustrating an example of the functional structure of a camera-side target information correction unit **64** in Modification Example 1 of the camera device **10**. The camera-side target information correction unit **64** in Modification Example 1 comprises a first target information acquisition unit **72**, a second target information acquisition unit **74**, and a correction unit **76**. The correction unit **76** includes a determination unit **86**. The same functional blocks as those described in FIG. **5** are denoted by the same reference numerals and the description thereof will not be repeated.

(103) The determination unit **86** determines whether to perform the correction of a first target information by the camera-side target information correction unit **64**. For example, the determination unit **86** determines whether to correct the first target information on the basis of the position of the tracking target specified on the basis of the first target information and the position of the tracking target specified on the basis of the second target information. That is, the determination unit **86** determines to correct the first target information in a case in which a difference distance between the first target information and the second target information is equal to or greater than a first threshold value and determines not to correct the first target information in a case in which the difference distance is less than the first threshold value. Here, the difference distance indicates the distance between the position of the tracking target specified on the basis of the first target information and the position of the tracking target specified on the basis of the second target information.

(104) In addition, the determination unit **86** may determine whether to perform the correction of the first target information by the camera-side target information correction unit **64** on the basis of the value of a frame rate which is one of the indexes indicating the communication state between the camera device **10** and the terminal device **100**. For example, the camera-side target information correction unit **64** acquires the frame rate monitored by the frame rate monitoring unit **197** through the camera-side communication unit **50**. In a case in which the acquired frame rate is equal to or less than a second threshold value, the camera-side target information correction unit **64** does not correct the first target information. Therefore, the camera device **10** can correct the first target information with high accuracy. Here, the first threshold value and the second threshold value are arbitrary values and may be set, considering the correction of the first target information.

(105) In addition, the determination unit **86** may determine not to correct the first target information in a case in which the communication state between the camera device **10** and the terminal device **100** monitored by the camera-side communication monitoring unit **51** is a disconnected state.

#### Modification Example 2

(106) Next, a modification example (Modification Example 2) of the camera device **10** will be described.

(107) FIG. **9** is a block diagram illustrating an example of the functional structure of a camera-side target information correction unit **64** in Modification Example 2 of the camera device **10**. The

camera-side target information correction unit **64** in Modification Example 2 comprises a first target information acquisition unit **72**, a second target information acquisition unit **74**, and a correction unit **76** and the correction unit **76** includes a timer **88**. The same functional blocks as those described in FIG. 5 are denoted by the same reference numerals and the description thereof will not be repeated.

(108) The camera-side target information correction unit **64** includes the timer **88** and determines whether to correct the first target information on the basis of information from the timer **88**. That is, the camera-side target information correction unit **64** may correct the first target information on the basis of the information (time) of the timer **88**. For example, the camera-side target information correction unit **64** may periodically correct the first target information on the basis of the information of the timer **88**.

(109) As such, since the camera-side target information correction unit **64** corrects the first target information on the basis of the information of the timer **88**, it is possible to stably correct the first target information.

#### Modification Example 3

(110) Next, a modification example (Modification Example 3) of the connection configuration between the camera device **10** and the terminal device **100** will be described.

(111) FIG. **10** is an external perspective view illustrating the camera device **10** and the terminal devices **100** in Modification Example 3. In the case shown in FIG. **10**, the camera device **10** is connected to a plurality of terminal devices (a terminal device **100A**, a terminal device **100B**, and a terminal device **100C**).

(112) The camera-side target information correction unit **64** compares frame rate information items output from communication units of the terminal devices and corrects the first target information on the basis of the second target information output from the communication unit of the terminal device with the highest frame rate. That is, the camera-side target information correction unit **64** acquires the second target information from a terminal device with the highest frame rate among the terminal device **100A**, the terminal device **100B**, and the terminal device **100C**. Therefore, it is possible to track a tracking target with high accuracy.

(113) For example, in a case in which the frame rate of the terminal device **100A** is 24 frames per second (fps), the frame rate of the terminal device **100B** is 12 fps, and the frame rate of the terminal device **100C** is 8 fps, the control unit **40** of the camera device **10** compares the frame rates of the terminal devices (the terminal device **100A**, the terminal device **100B**, and the terminal device **100C**) and acquires the second target information of the terminal device **100A** with the highest frame rate. In addition, the frame rate monitoring units **197** (see FIG. 3) of the terminal device **100A**, the terminal device **100B**, and the terminal device **100C** acquire the frame rates of the terminal devices and transmit the frame rates to the camera device **10** through the terminal-side communication units **110**.

(114) As such, since the first target information is corrected on the basis of the second target information of a terminal device with the highest frame rate among a plurality of terminal devices which communicate with the camera device **10**, it is possible to correct the first target information with high accuracy.

(115) The embodiments of the invention have been described above. However, the invention is not limited to the above-described embodiments and various modifications and changes of the invention can be made without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention.

#### EXPLANATION OF REFERENCES

(116) **10**: camera device **12**: device body **14**: base **16**: holding portion **16A**: gear **18**: dome cover **19**: imaging start button **20**: imaging unit **22**: imaging lens **23**: stop **24**: imaging element **26**: lens driving unit **28**: CMOS driver **30**: imaging direction adjustment unit **32**: pan/tilt mechanism **34**: pan driving unit **36**: tilt driving unit **40**: control unit **41**: signal processing unit **42**: imaging control unit **43**: lens control unit **44**: direction control unit **46**: operation control unit **50**: camera-side

communication unit **51**: camera-side communication monitoring unit **60**: operation unit **61**: camera-side display unit **62**: memory **64**: camera-side target information correction unit **65**: camera-side tracking processing unit **100**: terminal device **101**: main control unit **102**: housing **110**: terminal-side communication unit **120**: display input unit **121**: display panel **122**: operation panel **130**: calling unit **131**: speaker **132**: microphone **140**: operation unit **141**: camera unit **150**: storage unit **151**: internal storage unit **152**: external storage unit **160**: external input/output unit **170**: GPS receiving unit **180**: motion sensor unit **190**: power supply unit **191**: terminal-side tracking processing unit **193**: terminal-side target information correction unit **195**: terminal-side communication monitoring unit **197**: frame rate monitoring unit **300**: imaging system

## Claims

1. A camera device comprising: an imaging unit that continuously acquires captured image data; a pan/tilt mechanism that adjusts an imaging direction of the imaging unit; a controller including circuitry that: controls the pan/tilt mechanism; and analyzes the captured image data to acquire first target information indicating a position of a tracking target and outputs the first target information; a camera-side communication unit including circuitry that can communicate with a terminal device which operates the camera device and receives second target information from the terminal device; and a communication monitoring unit that monitors a communication state with the terminal device, wherein: in a case in which both the first target information and the second target information are input, the controller controls the pan/tilt mechanism on the basis of the second target information, and substitutes the content of the first target information with the content of the second target information to correct the first target information; and in a case in which only one of the first target information and the second target information is input, the controller controls the pan/tilt mechanism on the basis of the only one input information of the first target information and the second target information.
2. The camera device according to claim 1, wherein the terminal device includes a terminal-side target information correction unit that corrects the second target information on the basis of the first target information in a case in which, after the communication state monitored by the communication monitoring unit changes to a disconnected state, the communication state changes to a reconnected state.
3. The camera device according to claim 1, wherein the controller determines whether to correct the first target information on the basis of a position of the tracking target specified on the basis of the first target information and a position of the tracking target specified on the basis of the second target information.
4. The camera device according to claim 1, wherein: the controller calculates a difference distance indicating a distance between the position of the tracking target specified on the basis of the first target information and the position of the tracking target specified on the basis of the second target information; and the controller corrects the first target information in a case in which the difference distance is equal to or greater than a difference distance threshold value and does not correct the first target information in a case in which the difference distance is less than the difference distance threshold value.
5. The camera device according to claim 1, wherein the controller periodically determines whether to correct the first target information.
6. The camera device according to claim 1, wherein the terminal device further includes a controller that monitors a frame rate of the captured image data transmitted to the camera-side communication unit.
7. The camera device according to claim 6, wherein the controller does not correct the first target information in a case in which the frame rate monitored by the controller is equal to or less than a first frame rate threshold value.

8. The camera device according to claim 6, wherein: the terminal device includes a terminal-side target information correction unit that corrects the second target information on the basis of the first target information; and in a case in which, after the frame rate monitored by the controller is equal to or less than a first frame rate threshold value, the frame rate is equal to or greater than a second frame rate threshold value, the terminal-side target information correction unit corrects the second target information.
9. The camera device according to claim 6, wherein: a plurality of the terminal devices are connected to the camera device through terminal-side communication units of the plurality of terminal devices; the terminal-side communication unit of each of the plurality of terminal devices outputs information of the frame rate monitored by the controller and the second target information; and the controller compares the information items of the frame rates output from the terminal-side communication units of the terminal devices and corrects the first target information on the basis of the second target information which is output from the terminal-side communication unit of a terminal device with the highest frame rate.
10. The camera device according to claim 1, wherein the controller does not correct the first target information in a case in which the communication state monitored by the communication monitoring unit is a disconnected state.
11. A method for controlling a camera device comprising an imaging unit that continuously acquires captured image data, a pan/tilt mechanism that adjusts an imaging direction of the imaging unit, a controller including circuitry that controls the pan/tilt mechanism, a camera-side tracking processing unit that analyzes the captured image data to acquire first target information indicating a position of a tracking target and outputs the first target information, a camera-side communication unit including circuitry that can communicate with a terminal device which operates the camera device and receives second target information from the terminal device, and a communication monitoring unit that monitors a communication state with the terminal device, the method comprising: in a case in which both the first target information and the second target information are input, controlling the pan/tilt mechanism on the basis of the second target information, and substituting the content of the first target information with the content of the second target information to correct the first target information; and in a case in which only one of the first target information and the second target information is input, controlling the pan/tilt mechanism on the basis of the only one input information of the first target information and the second target information.
12. The method according to claim 11, further comprising correcting the second target information on the basis of the first target information in a case in which, after the monitored communication state changes to a disconnected state, the monitored communication state changes to a reconnected state.
13. A non-transitory computer-readable tangible medium having a program that causes a computer to perform the method according to claim 11.
-