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Control apparatus, lens apparatus, and imaging apparatus

Abstract

An apparatus for an optical system including a first magnification varying lens configured to move with zooming, a second magnification varying lens of which a position is controlled based on a position of the first magnification varying lens, and a focus lens configured to adjust an in-focus position includes a detector configured to detect the position of the second magnification varying lens, and at least one processor and a memory coupled to the processor storing instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to function as a setting unit configured to set a driving range of the focus lens based on the position of the second magnification varying lens.

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Background/Summary

BACKGROUND

Technical Field

(1) The aspect of the embodiments relates to a control apparatus, a lens apparatus, and an imaging apparatus.

Description of the Related Art

(2) A lens barrel mechanically supporting a plurality of lens groups in an imaging apparatus includes structural members such as a mold member and a metal member. With a rise in the temperature of a surrounding environment where the imaging apparatus is placed or a rise in the temperature inside the main body of the imaging apparatus, the structural members of the lens barrel can mechanically expand and contract due to thermal expansion. This expansion and contraction can change the positional relationships between the lenses included in an imaging optical system. Consequently, the focus position can be shifted or the driving ranges of the lenses can change before and after the mechanical expansion and contraction.

(3) To address these issues, Japanese Patent No. 3581513 and Japanese Patent No. 4857257 discuss

techniques for mounting a temperature detection sensor in the main body of an imaging apparatus and correcting the position of a focus lens, the position of a zoom lens, and the driving ranges of the lenses based on a temperature change.

SUMMARY

(4) According to an aspect of the embodiments, an apparatus for an optical system including a first magnification varying lens configured to move with zooming, a second magnification varying lens of which a position is controlled based on a position of the first magnification varying lens, and a focus lens configured to adjust an in-focus position includes a detector configured to detect the position of the second magnification varying lens, and at least one processor and a memory coupled to the processor storing instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to function as a setting unit configured to set a driving range of the focus lens based on the position of the second magnification varying lens.

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

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) FIG. 1 is a diagram illustrating a configuration of an imaging apparatus according to first and second exemplary embodiments.

(2) FIG. 2 is a flowchart illustrating zooming processing according to the first and second exemplary embodiments.

(3) FIG. 3 is a diagram illustrating cam data on an auxiliary lens.

(4) FIG. 4 is a diagram illustrating cam data on a focus lens.

(5) FIG. 5 is a flowchart illustrating processing for setting a driving range of the focus lens according to the first exemplary embodiment.

(6) FIG. 6A is a schematic diagram illustrating the driving range of the focus lens.

(7) FIG. 6B is another schematic diagram illustrating the driving range of the focus lens.

(8) FIG. 7 is a flowchart illustrating processing for setting the driving range of the focus lens according to the second exemplary embodiment.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

(9) In a first exemplary embodiment of the disclosure, a description will be given of an imaging apparatus that achieves excellent focus operability even in a case where temperature expansion and contraction differs from individual to individual.

(10) In recent years, there has been a tendency to increase the size of a lens barrel in order to offer high image quality by giving a high-resolution feeling with 4K video images, increasing the size of an image sensor, and the like. On the other hand, there is a user demand for the downsizing of an imaging apparatus. If the downsizing of the lens barrel is promoted, the sensitivity (the position sensitivity) of the focus movement relative to the movement of a lens is to be increased.

(11) If the position sensitivity of the lens is increased, the focus position or the driving range of the lens is affected more by the movement of a lens group that is caused by the expansion and contraction of the structural members of a lens unit due to thermal expansion. Particularly, the temperature expansion and contraction of mechanical members including a mold member varies greatly from individual to individual. Thus, even with the same temperature, the focus position or the driving range of the lens may change greatly from individual to individual, or in some cases, focusing on a desired subject may not be possible. To address the issues, in the present exemplary embodiment, a focus driving range is set based on the position of an auxiliary lens.

(12) FIG. 1 illustrates a configuration of a video camera (an imaging apparatus) according to the present exemplary embodiment. While a video camera is described in the present exemplary

embodiment, the present exemplary embodiment is also be applicable to another imaging apparatus such as a digital still camera.

(13) The imaging apparatus illustrated in FIG. 1 includes, as an imaging optical system, a first fixed lens **101**, a zoom lens **102**, a diaphragm unit **103**, an auxiliary lens **104**, and a focus lens **105** in order from a subject side (a left side in FIG. 1). The zoom lens **102** (a first magnification varying lens) moves in an optical axis direction to perform zooming. The auxiliary lens **104** (a second magnification varying lens) moves in the optical axis direction based on the position of the zoom lens **102** to support the zooming of the zoom lens **102**. The focus lens **105** is a focus compensator lens having both a function of correcting the movement of a focal plane with zooming, and a focusing function for adjusting an in-focus position.

(14) An image sensor **106** is a photoelectric conversion device, such as a charge-coupled device (CCD) sensor or a complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (CMOS) sensor, and captures a subject image formed by the imaging optical system. A correlated double sampling/automatic gain control (CDS/AGC) circuit **107** samples the output of the image sensor **106** for gain adjustment. A camera signal processing circuit **108** converts a signal output from the CDS/AGC circuit **107** into a signal compatible with a recording device **109**, and transmits an image signal of a still image or a video signal of a moving image, which is obtained by the conversion, to the recording device **109**. The recording device **109** controls the recording of the moving image or the still image and records the image signal or the video signal in a recording medium (not illustrated). As the recording medium, a magnetic tape, a semiconductor memory, or a Digital Versatile Disc (DVD) can be used.

(15) A stepping motor driving circuit **110b** controls the driving of a stepping motor **110a** serving as a driving source for driving the zoom lens **102**. The stepping motor **110a** is engaged with a feed screw shaft **110c** serving as an output shaft. When the stepping motor **110a** is driven to rotate the feed screw shaft **110c**, the engagement action between the feed screw shaft **110c** and a rack drives the zoom lens **102** in the optical axis direction (indicated by a double arrow in FIG. 1).

(16) In a case where the stepping motor **110a** drives the zoom lens **102** to a target position, the stepping motor driving circuit **110b** first sets, at startup of the imaging apparatus, the zoom lens **102** at a position (a reference position) serving as a reference for position control. Then, the stepping motor driving circuit **110b** inputs, to the stepping motor **110a**, a driving signal having pulses corresponding to the number of pulses for moving the zoom lens **102** from the reference position to the target position. Thus, in the imaging apparatus, a reference position sensor that detects whether the zoom lens **102** is located at the reference position is provided. In the present exemplary embodiment, the reference position sensor is formed of a photointerrupter in which a light-emitting element and a light-receiving element are integrated together. A light-blocking member provided in a holding frame of the zoom lens **102** enters between the light-emitting element and the light-receiving element of the photointerrupter, and blocks the light traveling from the light-emitting element to the light-receiving element, whereby the zoom lens **102** is detected as being located at the reference position. The light-blocking member is formed into a shape that allows detection of whether the zoom lens **102** is in a zone on the telephoto side or a zone on the wide-angle side.

(17) A position scale **115b** for detecting the position of the zoom lens **102** is fixed to the holding frame of the zoom lens **102**. A position sensor **115a** is fixed to a lens barrel portion at a position opposed to the position scale **115b**. In the position scale **115b**, a scale pattern such as a magnetic pattern or a light reflection pattern is generated in the optical axis direction. The position sensor **115a** reads a magnetic signal or a light reflection signal based on the position of the position scale **115b**. This enables detection of the position of the zoom lens **102** in the optical axis direction. A detection signal of the position sensor **115a** is input to a microprocessor **118** (described below) and is used to control the position of the zoom lens **102**.

(18) A stepping motor driving circuit **111b** controls the driving of a stepping motor **111a** serving as a driving source for driving the auxiliary lens **104**. The stepping motor **111a** is engaged with a feed

screw shaft **111c** serving as an output shaft. When the stepping motor **111a** is driven to rotate the feed screw shaft **111c**, the engagement action between the feed screw shaft **111c** and a rack drives the auxiliary lens **104** in the optical axis direction (indicated by a double arrow in FIG. 1).

(19) In a case where the stepping motor **111a** drives the auxiliary lens **104** to a target position, the stepping motor driving circuit **111b** first sets, at startup of the imaging apparatus, the auxiliary lens **104** at a position (a reference position) serving as a reference for position control. Then, the stepping motor driving circuit **111b** inputs, to the stepping motor **111a**, a driving signal having pulses corresponding to the number of pulses for moving the auxiliary lens **104** from the reference position to the target position. Thus, in the imaging apparatus, a reference position sensor that detects whether the auxiliary lens **104** is located at the reference position is provided. In the present exemplary embodiment, the reference position sensor has a configuration similar to that of the reference position sensor for the zoom lens **102**, and thus the detailed description thereof will be omitted. Using a photointerrupter in which a light-emitting element and a light-receiving element are integrated together, the auxiliary lens **104** is detected as being located at the reference position.

(20) A position scale **116b** for detecting the position of the auxiliary lens **104** is fixed to a holding frame of the auxiliary lens **104**. A position sensor **116a** is fixed at a position opposed to the position scale **116b**. Configurations of the position scale **116b** and the position sensor **116a** are similar to those of the position scale **115b** and the position sensor **115a** for the zoom lens **102**, respectively, and thus the description thereof will be omitted. A detection signal of the position sensor **116a** is input to the microprocessor **118**, and the detection result of the position of the auxiliary lens **104** in the optical axis direction is used to control the position of the auxiliary lens **104**.

(21) A focus lens driving circuit **114** includes a voice coil motor (VCM) serving as a driving source and a driving circuit for the VCM, and drives the focus lens **105** to a target position. A position scale **117b** for detecting the position of the focus lens **105** is fixed to a holding frame of the focus lens **105**. A position sensor **117a** is fixed at a position opposed to the position scale **117b**. In the position scale **117b**, a scale pattern such as a magnetic pattern or a light reflection pattern is generated in the optical axis direction. The position sensor **117a** reads a magnetic signal or a light reflection signal based on the position of the position scale **117b**. This enables detection of the position of the focus lens **105** in the optical axis direction. A detection signal of the position sensor **117a** is input to the microprocessor **118**, and the microprocessor **118** feeds back position information regarding the focus lens **105**, thereby forming a servo control system.

(22) While the focus lens **105** is assumed to be driven by the VCM in the present exemplary embodiment, a configuration using another type of actuator such as a direct current (DC) motor or an ultrasonic motor may be employed. Alternatively, a stepping motor may be used as the driving source of the focus lens **105**, and the position sensor **117a** and the position scale **117b** attached to the holding frame of the focus lens **105** may be eliminated. This is because the position sensor **117a** for the focus lens **105** is used to form the servo control system using the VCM and is also used to acquire the position of the focus lens **105**, whereas in a case where a stepping motor is used as the driving source of the focus lens **105**, a pulse count can be treated as position information.

(23) As the driving source of the focus lens **105**, an actuator having a stop accuracy higher than those of the zoom lens **102** and the auxiliary lens **104** is used. This enables correction of the positions of the zoom lens **102** and the auxiliary lens **104**. The stop accuracy is determined based on the position sensitivity of each of the zoom lens **102** and the auxiliary lens **104** or the depth of focus of the imaging optical system included in the imaging apparatus.

(24) The microprocessor **118** functions as a control unit that controls the entire operation of the imaging apparatus based on inputs from a zoom operation unit **119** and various operation switches (not illustrated) such as a power switch and an image recording switch.

(25) The zoom operation unit **119** can include a seesaw lever or a button for giving an instruction to move to the wide-angle side and a button for giving an instruction to move to the telephoto side, and an electronic ring for giving an instruction to change the zoom magnification using rotation.

Alternatively, a plurality of the zoom operation units **119** may be provided. When the zoom operation unit **119** is operated, an operation signal indicating an operation direction and an operation amount is output to the microprocessor **118**. Based on this information, the microprocessor **118** calculates the driving speeds and the driving directions of the zoom lens **102** and the auxiliary lens **104**, and outputs driving commands to the stepping motor driving circuits **110b** and **111b** based on the calculation results, thereby moving the zoom lens **102** along the optical axis.

(26) In a memory **120** provided in the microprocessor **118**, the positions of an end (a telephoto end) on the telephoto side and an end (a wide-angle end) on the wide-angle side relative to the reference position of the zoom lens **102** are stored. The stepping motors **110a** and **111a** are driven based on forward/reverse signals input to the two stepping motor driving circuits **110b** and **111b** from the microprocessor **118**, respectively. The focus lens driving circuit **114** is driven by a control signal from the microprocessor **118**. As described above, the microprocessor **118** functions as a lens control unit that controls lens driving. A zooming operation of the imaging optical system and a focusing operation associated with the zooming operation are performed by controlling the stepping motor **111a** serving as the driving source of the auxiliary lens **104** and the focus lens driving circuit **114**, using an electronic cam method based on cam trajectory data, which is generally used in a video camera. The cam trajectory data is stored in the memory **120** of the microprocessor **118**. The imaging optical system according to the present exemplary embodiment includes the zoom lens **102**, the auxiliary lens **104**, and the focus lens **105**. Generally, in such an imaging optical system, auxiliary lens cam data indicating the positional relationship between the zoom lens **102** and the auxiliary lens **104** and focus cam data indicating the positional relationship between the zoom lens **102** and the focus lens **105** are used as the cam trajectory data. This type of cam trajectory data is described also in the present exemplary embodiment. The method for driving each of the stepping motors **110a** and **111a** used in the present exemplary embodiment is not particularly limited, and a 1-2 phase driving method or a 2-2 phase driving method may be used. In the memory **120**, the position sensitivity of each of the auxiliary lens **104** and the focus lens **105** is stored.

(27) The diaphragm unit **103** includes a diaphragm driving circuit **113** including an actuator using a galvanometer method (not illustrated), a diaphragm blade that is driven to open and close by the actuator, and a position detection element (a Hall element) **112** that detects the opened or closed state of the diaphragm.

(28) The microprocessor **118** performs feedback control of the actuator of the diaphragm driving circuit **113** so that an input luminance signal component constantly has an appropriate value. At this time, an output from the position detection element **112** is amplified, and the amplified output is converted from an analog signal to a digital signal by an analog-to-digital (A/D) conversion circuit (not illustrated). Then, the digital signal is input to the microprocessor **118**, as information indicating the opened or closed position of the diaphragm.

(29) Based on this diaphragm position information, the microprocessor **118** transmits an opening or closing signal to the diaphragm driving circuit **113** so that the luminance signal component constantly has the appropriate value, thereby controlling the diaphragm unit **103**. The microprocessor **118** can also transmit an opening or closing signal for fixing the position of the diaphragm to a predetermined opened or closed position, to the diaphragm driving circuit **113**.

(30) A focus operation unit **121** is an operation member used to drive the focus lens **105**. The focus operation unit **121** transmits operation information, such as an operation amount and an operation speed, to the microprocessor **118**. The microprocessor **118** outputs a driving command to the focus lens driving circuit **114** based on the operation information from the focus operation unit **121**, thereby implementing a manual focus operation. Alternatively, the microprocessor **118** may perform focus detection based on a video signal from the camera signal processing circuit **108**, and output a driving command to the focus lens driving circuit **114** based on the focus detection result.

(31) A control program for zoom driving, which is executed by the microprocessor **118**, will be described in detail with reference to a flowchart in FIG. 2. Processing in steps S201 to S216 in FIG. 2 is periodically repeated with a period ΔT . The processing is started when the main body of the camera is powered on. Then, the processing is performed by the microprocessor **118** receiving outputs from the memory **120**, the zoom operation unit **119**, and the position sensors **115a**, **116a**, and **117a**, and then controlling the stepping motor driving circuits **110b** and **111b** and the focus lens driving circuit **114**. Alternatively, the processing may be started in response to a change from a reproduction mode for displaying a captured image or a setting mode for making various settings to an image capturing mode for waiting for the capturing of an image.

(32) In step S201, it is determined whether the zoom operation unit **119** is operated (whether an operation signal is input). If the zoom operation unit **119** is operated (YES in step S201), the processing proceeds to step S202. In step S202, a target zoom speed V_z of the zoom lens **102** is acquired based on information regarding the operation amount included in the operation signal. Then, the processing proceeds to step S203. In step S203, a target zoom position Z_t is acquired. Assuming that a current zoom position, which is indicated by a driving counter of the stepping motor driving circuit **110b**, is Z and the control period is ΔT , the target zoom position Z_t can be calculated using the following formula (1).

$$Z_t = Z + V_z \times \Delta T \quad (1)$$

(33) Next, the processing proceeds to step S204. In step S204, a target driving position of the auxiliary lens **104** is determined. FIG. 3 illustrates the positional relationship between the zoom lens **102** and the auxiliary lens **104**. Information corresponding to the positional relationship in FIG. 3 is stored in the memory **120** of the microprocessor **118**, as the auxiliary lens cam data. In step S204, a target auxiliary lens position S_t corresponding to the target zoom position Z_t is acquired based on the target zoom position Z_t calculated using the formula (1) and the auxiliary lens cam data.

(34) Subsequently, the processing proceeds to step S205. In step S205, using a current position S of the auxiliary lens **104**, which is indicated by a driving counter of the stepping motor driving circuit **111b**, a target speed V_s of the auxiliary lens **104** is calculated using the following formula (2).

$$V_s = (S_t - S) / \Delta T \quad (2)$$

(35) Next, the processing proceeds to step S206. In step S206, a subject distance L is acquired as the distance to a current subject, based on position information regarding the focus lens **105** input from the position sensor **117a**. The subject distance L is acquired on the assumption that, before the zoom lens **102** is driven, the subject is in focus at the detected position of the focus lens **105**. More specifically, the subject distance L is acquired by referring to the cam data stored in the memory **120**, the position of the focus lens **105**, and the current position Z of the zoom lens **102**.

(36) Subsequently, the processing proceeds to step S207. In step S207, a target driving position of the focus lens **105** is determined. FIG. 4 illustrates the focus cam data indicating the positional relationship between the zoom lens **102** and the focus lens **105**. The focus cam data is stored in the memory **120** of the microprocessor **118**, as a plurality of pieces of table data corresponding to discrete subject distances L_0 to L_n . The focus cam data corresponding to the subject distance L acquired in step S206 is called from the memory **120**. Alternatively, the focus cam data on the subject distance L may be calculated by interpolation calculation based on pieces of focus cam data on the next smaller and larger subject distances. Using the called focus cam data on the subject distance L , a target focus lens position F_t corresponding to the target zoom position Z_t calculated using the formula (1) in step S203 is acquired.

(37) Subsequently, the processing proceeds to step S208. In step S208, using a current position F of the focus lens **105** input from the position sensor **117a**, a target speed V_f of the focus lens **105** is calculated using the following formula (3).

$$V_f = (F_t - F) / \Delta T \quad (3)$$

(38) In step S209, the target positions and the target speeds are transmitted to the stepping motor

driving circuit **110b** that drives the zoom lens **102**, the stepping motor driving circuit **111b** that drives the auxiliary lens **104**, and the focus lens driving circuit **114** that drives the focus lens **105**. This enables the driving of the zoom lens **102**, the auxiliary lens **104**, and the focus lens **105**. Then, the processing proceeds to step **S210**. In step **S210**, a driving flag *f* indicating that the zooming operation is being driven is set.

(39) On the other hand, in a case where an operation signal is not input from the zoom operation unit **119** in step **S201** (NO in step **S201**), the processing proceeds to step **S211**. In step **S211**, the driving of the lenses (the zoom lens **102**, the auxiliary lens **104**, and the focus lens **105**) is stopped, and a stabilization operation for stabilizing the lenses is controlled.

(40) In step **S211**, a stop command to stop the zoom lens **102** is transmitted to the stepping motor driving circuit **110b**. In step **S212**, it is determined whether the driving of the zoom lens **102** is stopped. In a case where the driving of the zoom lens **102** is stopped (YES in step **S211**), the processing proceeds to step **S213**. In a case where the driving of the zoom lens **102** is not stopped (NO in step **S211**), the processing returns to step **S211**. In step **S211**, the stop command is transmitted to the stepping motor driving circuit **110b** again.

(41) In step **S213**, a stop position *Ss* of the auxiliary lens **104** is acquired, the auxiliary lens **104** is moved to the acquired stop position *Ss*, and then the driving of the auxiliary lens **104** is stopped. The method for calculating the stop position *Ss* is similar to the method used in step **S204**. The stop position *Ss* of the auxiliary lens **104** is calculated using a stop position of the zoom lens **102** and the auxiliary lens cam data illustrated in FIG. 3.

(42) In step **S214**, a stop position *Fs* of the focus lens **105** is acquired, the focus lens **105** is moved to the acquired stop position *Fs*, and then the driving of the focus lens **105** is stopped. The method for calculating the stop position *Fs* is similar to the method used in step **S207**. The stop position *Fs* of the focus lens **105** is acquired using the stop position of the zoom lens **102** and the focus cam data illustrated in FIG. 4. Through the operations in steps **S211** to **S214**, the stabilization operation for stabilizing the lenses (the zoom lens **102**, the auxiliary lens **104**, and the focus lens **105**) is performed.

(43) In step **S215**, the position of the auxiliary lens **104** is acquired from the output of the position sensor **116a**, and is stored in the memory **120** as the stop position *Ss* of the auxiliary lens **104** at the time of stabilization. Then, in step **S216**, the driving flag *f* set in step **S210** is cleared.

(44) In step **S207**, the target focus position is calculated as a position within a focus driving range (a driving range of the focus lens **105**). The driving range of the focus lens **105** is set to a range including a position (an infinity position) where a subject of which the subject distance *L* is infinity is brought into focus and a position (a closest position) where a subject of which the subject distance *L* is the closest distance at which the subject can be imaged is brought into focus, or set to a range where an adequate margin is added to the positions. In other words, a control end on the infinity side of the focus lens **105** is set to be located outside (on the opposite side of the closest position) further than the infinity position by the margin. A control end on the closest side is set to be located outside (on the opposite side of the infinity position) further than the closest position by the margin. However, if the position of the auxiliary lens **104** is shifted from the stabilized position due to a temperature change, there is a possibility that either the infinity position or the closest position may have an insufficient margin at the control end or fall outside the driving range, depending on the shift amount of the position or the position sensitivity of the auxiliary lens **104**. To address the issue, in the present exemplary embodiment, the focus driving range is set based on the position of the auxiliary lens **104**. This makes it possible to achieve excellent focus operability even in a case where temperature expansion and contraction differs from individual to individual.

(45) A program for setting the focus driving range will be described in detail with reference to a flowchart in FIG. 5. Processing in FIG. 5 is performed by the microprocessor **118** receiving outputs from the memory **120** and the position sensor **116a** for the auxiliary lens **104**. The processing is also periodically repeated with a period ΔT and is performed in parallel with the flowchart in FIG.

2. The period ΔT may be different from that in the flowchart in FIG. 2.

(46) First, in step **S501**, it is determined based on the driving flag f whether the zoom operation is currently being driven. If the driving flag f is not set, it is determined that the zoom operation is not currently being driven (NO in step **S501**), and the processing ends. If the driving flag f is set, it is determined that the zoom operation is currently being driven (YES in step **S501**), and the processing proceeds to step **S502**. In step **S502**, the stop position S_s of the auxiliary lens **104** at the time of stabilization, which is stored in step **S215** in FIG. 2, is acquired from the memory **120**. In step **S503**, a current position S_c of the auxiliary lens **104** is acquired from the position sensor **116a**.

(47) Next, the processing proceeds to step **S504**. In step **S504**, based on the stop position S_s of the auxiliary lens **104** at the time of stabilization, which is acquired in step **S502**, and the current position S_c of the auxiliary lens **104** acquired in step **S503**, a position difference ΔS that is the shift amount of the position of the auxiliary lens **104** is calculated using the following formula (4).

$$\Delta S = S_c - S_s \quad (4)$$

(48) Subsequently, the processing proceeds to step **S505**. In step **S505**, position sensitivity K_s of the auxiliary lens **104** is acquired from the memory **120**. The position sensitivity K_s is the ratio between a movement amount of the auxiliary lens **104** and a movement amount ΔP of an image plane on which an image is formed. The higher the position sensitivity K_s is, the greater the movement amount ΔP of the image plane is even with a slight movement of the auxiliary lens **104**.

(49) Assuming that the auxiliary lens **104** moves by ΔX , the movement amount ΔP of the image plane can be represented by the following formula (5).

$$\Delta P = \Delta X \times K_s \quad (5)$$

(50) Subsequently, the processing proceeds to step **S506**. In step **S506**, infinity position sensitivity K_{ff} and closest position sensitivity K_{fn} of the focus lens **105** are acquired from the memory **120**. The position of the focus lens **105** changes depending on the subject distance L , and thus the position sensitivity of the focus lens **105** also differs depending on the subject distance L . The infinity position sensitivity K_{ff} is the position sensitivity of the focus lens **105** in focusing on the infinity position. The closest position sensitivity K_{fn} is the position sensitivity of the focus lens **105** in focusing on the closest position where the subject can be imaged. Each of the infinity position sensitivity K_{ff} and the closest position sensitivity K_{fn} is the ratio between a movement amount of the focus lens **105** and a movement amount of the image plane on which an image is formed. The higher the sensitivity is, the greater the movement amount of the image plane is even with a slight movement of the focus lens **105**. Assuming that the auxiliary lens **104** moves by ΔY , a movement amount ΔQ_f of the image plane at infinity can be represented by the following formula (6), and a movement amount ΔQ_n of the image plane at the closest position can be represented by the following formula (7).

$$\Delta Q_f = \Delta Y \times K_{ff} \quad (6)$$

$$\Delta Q_n = \Delta Y \times K_{fn} \quad (7)$$

(51) In step **S507**, the correction amounts of the ends (the control ends) of the driving range of the focus lens **105** associated with the shift of the auxiliary lens **104** are determined. A movement amount ΔP_s of the image plane by the auxiliary lens **104** is calculated using the following formula (8). The formula (8) is obtained by applying the position difference ΔS of the auxiliary lens **104** calculated in the above processing to the formula (5).

$$\Delta P_s = K_s \times \Delta S \quad (8)$$

(52) Next, a movement amount ΔF_f of the infinity position of the focus lens **105** at focus infinity is calculated using the following formula (9). The formula (9) is obtained by applying the calculated movement amount ΔP_s of the image plane to the formula (6).

$$\Delta F_f = \Delta P_s / K_{ff} \quad (9)$$

(53) Similarly, a movement amount ΔF_n of the closest position of the focus lens **105** at the focus closest distance is calculated using the following formula (10). The formula (10) is obtained by applying the movement amount ΔP_s of the image plane to the formula (7).

$$\Delta F_n = \Delta P_s / K_{fn} \quad (10)$$

(54) Subsequently, the processing proceeds to step S508. In step S508, the driving range of the focus lens 105 is corrected using the movement amount ΔF_f of the infinity position and the movement amount ΔF_n of the closest position. Assuming that the positions of the drive control ends at infinity and the closest distance of the focus lens 105 before the correction are L_{mf} and L_{mn} , respectively, a stroke L_n of the focus lens 105 can be obtained using the following formula (11).

$$L_n = L_{mn} - L_{mf} (L_{mf} < L_{mn}) \quad (11)$$

(55) Before the driving range is corrected, the focus lens 105 is driven in the range from the position L_{mf} to the position L_{mn} as illustrated in FIG. 6A. In this step, the driving range of the focus lens 105 is corrected so that the focus lens 105 can move along a stroke L' from $(L_{mf} - \Delta F_f)$ to $(L_{mn} - \Delta F_n)$ as illustrated in FIG. 6B. Even in a case where the position where the focus lens 105 is currently at rest falls outside the driving range newly set in step S508, it is desirable not to move the focus lens 105 into the driving range unless a zoom operation or a focus operation is input. This is because moving the focus lens 105 changes the image magnification, and thus there is a possibility that a change in the image magnification unintended by the user may occur.

(56) As described above, even in a case where the auxiliary lens 104 moves without the user's intention due to a temperature change, the driving range of the focus lens 105 is set again based on the movement amount (the shift amount) of the auxiliary lens 104, whereby it is possible to secure a certain amount of margin from the infinity position to the control end on the infinity side, and a certain amount of margin from the closest position and the control end on the closest side. This makes it possible to focus on even a subject at the infinity position or at the closest distance, and therefore to achieve an excellent focus operation.

(57) In a case where the driving range is set using a temperature sensor, it is difficult to consider variation from individual to individual in the movement amount of the auxiliary lens 104 as described above. If the position sensitivity K_s of the auxiliary lens 104 is not high, variation in the movement amount ΔP of the image plane associated with the variation in the movement amount of the auxiliary lens 104 is not large. Thus, the driving range can be set based on the temperature detected by the temperature sensor in consideration of the variation in the movement amount ΔP of the image plane. However, if the position sensitivity K_s of the auxiliary lens 104 is high, the variation in the movement amount ΔP of the image plane associated with the variation in the movement amount of the auxiliary lens 104 is large. If the driving range is set in consideration of the large variation, the margin varies greatly between an individual that moves by a small amount with a temperature change and an individual that moves by a large amount with a temperature change. Thus, an individual having an excessively large margin occurs. In the present exemplary embodiment, since the driving range of the focus lens 105 is set based on the movement amount of the auxiliary lens 104 as described above, it is possible to mitigate such an issue.

(58) A second exemplary embodiment of the disclosure will be described. Description of parts similar to those in the first exemplary embodiment will be omitted. The second exemplary embodiment is different from the first exemplary embodiment in a program for changing the driving range of the focus lens 105 that is executed by the microprocessor 118. Thus, the program will be described in detail with reference to a flowchart in FIG. 7.

(59) Processing in steps S701 to S704 is similar to that in steps S501 to S504 in the first exemplary embodiment, and thus detailed description thereof will be omitted. First, in step S701, it is determined whether the zoom operation is currently being driven. If it is determined that the zoom operation is not currently being driven (NO in step S701), the processing ends. If it is determined that the zoom operation is currently being driven (YES in step S701), the processing proceeds to step S702. In step S702, the stop position S_s of the auxiliary lens 104 at the time of stabilization, which is stored in step S215, is acquired from the memory 120. In step S703, the current position S_c of the auxiliary lens 104 is acquired from the position sensor 116a. In step S704, the position

difference ΔS of the auxiliary lens **104** is calculated using the above formula (4) based on the stop position S_s of the auxiliary lens **104** at the time of stabilization that is acquired in step **S702** and the current position S_c of the auxiliary lens **104** acquired in step **S703**. The processing then proceeds to step **S705**.

(60) In step **S705**, a magnitude of the position difference ΔS calculated in step **S704**, which is the shift amount of the position of the auxiliary lens **104**, and a magnitude of a sum $\Delta S_p + \alpha$, which is a sum of a stored position difference ΔS_p of the auxiliary lens **104** stored in step **S706** (described below) and a fixed value α , are compared with each other. If the position difference ΔS is greater than the sum $\Delta S_p + \alpha$ (YES in step **S705**), the processing proceeds to step **S706**. If the position difference ΔS is less than or equal to the sum $\Delta S_p + \alpha$ (NO in step **S705**), the processing ends.

(61) In step **S706**, the position difference ΔS of the auxiliary lens **104** is stored as the stored position difference ΔS_p . The stored position difference ΔS_p is stored every time the driving range of the focus lens **105** is corrected in the next step, i.e., from step **S707** to step **710**. More specifically, the second exemplary embodiment is different from the first exemplary embodiment in that in step **S705**, it is determined whether the shift amount of the position of the auxiliary lens **104** in a period from the timing when the position difference ΔS is calculated when the driving range is changed last time to the timing when the position difference ΔS is calculated this time is greater than the predetermined value α , and then if the shift amount of the position in the period from the timing when the position difference ΔS is calculated when the driving range is set last time to the timing when the position difference ΔS is calculated this time is greater than the predetermined value α , the driving range is set again. If the shift amount of the position is less than or equal to the predetermined value α , the set driving range is maintained. The stored position difference ΔS_p is initialized to 0 in processing during power-on.

(62) Next, the processing proceeds to step **S707**. Steps **S707** to **S710** are similar to steps **S505** to **S508** in the first exemplary embodiment, and thus detailed description thereof will be omitted. In step **S707**, the position sensitivity K_s of the auxiliary lens **104** is acquired from the memory **120**. In step **S708**, the infinity position sensitivity K_{ff} and the closest position sensitivity K_{fn} of the focus lens **105** are acquired from the memory **120**. In step **S709**, the correction amounts of the drive control ends of the focus lens **105** associated with the shift of the auxiliary lens **104** are determined. Based on the position difference ΔS acquired in step **S704** and the position sensitivity K_s acquired in step **S707**, the movement amount ΔP_s of the image plane by the auxiliary lens **104** is calculated using the above formula (8). Then, using the calculated movement amount ΔP_s of the image plane and the above formula (9), the movement amount ΔF_f of the infinity position of the focus lens **105** is calculated. Similarly, using the calculated movement amount ΔP_s of the image plane and the above formula (10), the movement amount ΔF_n of the closest position of the focus lens **105** at the focus closest distance is calculated. In step **S710**, the driving range of the focus lens **105** is changed using the movement amount ΔF_f of the infinity position and the movement amount ΔF_n of the closest position that are calculated in step **S709**.

(63) As a result, even if the position of the auxiliary lens **104** moves due to a temperature after the zoom operation stops, the driving range of the focus lens **105** is corrected in a case where the movement amount (the shift amount) is greater than the predetermined value α . This makes it possible to secure a certain amount of margin from the infinity position to the control end on the infinity side and a certain amount of margin from the closest position to the control end on the closest side to the extent that it is possible to focus on a subject at infinity or at the closest distance even when the auxiliary lens **104** moves. As a result, it is possible to achieve an excellent focus operation. Unlike the first exemplary embodiment, since the driving range of the focus lens **105** is changed if the shift amount of the auxiliary lens **104** exceeds the predetermined value α , it is possible to avoid the situation where the driving range constantly changes with a short period ΔT . It is therefore possible to improve the stability of the driving range.

Variations

(64) Variations of the first and second exemplary embodiments will be described. In the above-described exemplary embodiments, the driving range is set based on the position difference ΔS between the position of the auxiliary lens **104** detected at the time of stabilization and the current position of the auxiliary lens **104**. Alternatively, assuming that the position of the auxiliary lens **104** at the time of stabilization matches the target position acquired in step S213, the shift amount between the target position and the current position of the auxiliary lens **104** may be used as the position difference ΔS , and the driving range may be set based on this shift amount.

(65) In the above-described exemplary embodiments, the driving range (a first range) of the focus lens **105** is set in advance, and the control ends of the first range are corrected based on the position difference ΔS of the auxiliary lens **104**, whereby the driving range of the focus lens **105** is set based on the shift amount of the position. The setting method, however, is not limited thereto. For example, if the absolute value of the position difference ΔS is less than or equal to a first value, the first range is set as the driving range of the focus lens **105**. If the position difference ΔS is greater than the first value and less than or equal to a second value in a positive direction, a second range set in advance is set as the driving range of the focus lens **105**. Furthermore, if the position difference ΔS is greater than the second value, a third range set in advance is set as the driving range of the focus lens **105**. In this way, any of the stepwise ranges determined in advance may be set as the driving range of the focus lens **105**. In this case, the relationship between the position difference ΔS of the auxiliary lens **104** and the movement amount of the image plane may be acquired in advance, and the driving range may be determined in advance based on this relationship. Then, data in which each position difference ΔS and the range is associated with each other may be stored in the memory **120**. Similarly, regarding a negative direction, any of ranges determined in advance based on the magnitude of the position difference ΔS may be set as the driving range of the focus lens **105**.

(66) Either the infinity position or the closest position that is closer to the control end (i.e., the position having a smaller margin) is more likely to be influenced by the shift amount. Thus, the position of the closer control end may be set based on the shift amount of the position of the auxiliary lens **104**.

(67) In the first and second exemplary embodiments, the methods for correcting the driving range of the focus lens **105** have been described in order to address the shift of the position (the occurrence of the position difference ΔS) of the auxiliary lens **104** due to a temperature change. Actually, however, due to the expansion and contraction of the lens barrel with a temperature change, the relationship between the position of the focus lens **105** and the subject distance L which corresponds to the position of the focus lens **105** and at which the subject is brought into focus is shifted in some cases. To address this, for example, a conventional method for correcting the shift of the relationship between the position of the focus lens **105** and the subject distance L , such as the method discussed in Japanese Patent No. 4857257, and the methods described in the first and second exemplary embodiments may be used in combination. For example, a temperature sensor is installed in the imaging apparatus, and based on the output of the temperature sensor, the driving range of the focus lens **105** stored in association with the output temperature is read from the memory **120**. Then, the read driving range of the focus lens **105** is corrected based on the position difference ΔS using the above-described methods. This makes it possible to handle both the shift of the position of the auxiliary lens **104** due to a temperature change and the shift of the relationship between the position of the focus lens **105** and the subject distance L at which the subject is brought into focus.

(68) While a lens-integrated imaging apparatus has been described in the above-described exemplary embodiments, the exemplary embodiments are also applicable to a lens-interchangeable imaging apparatus. In this case, a processor that functions as a setting unit that sets the driving range of the focus lens **105** may be included in an interchangeable lens apparatus, or may be included in the main body of the camera to which an interchangeable lens can be attached. If the

processor is included in the main body of the camera, the processor receives information, such as information regarding the position and the position sensitivity of each lens, and transmits information indicating the driving range to be set, to the interchangeable lens apparatus via a communication unit capable of communicating with the interchangeable lens apparatus.

(69) While the exemplary embodiments of the disclosure have been described in detail above, the disclosure is not limited to these specific exemplary embodiments. The disclosure also includes various embodiments without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosure. Parts of the above-described exemplary embodiments can be appropriately combined together.

Other Embodiments

(70) Embodiment(s) of the disclosure can also be realized by a computer of a system or apparatus that reads out and executes computer executable instructions (e.g., one or more programs) recorded on a storage medium (which may also be referred to more fully as a ‘non-transitory computer-readable storage medium’) to perform the functions of one or more of the above-described embodiment(s) and/or that includes one or more circuits (e.g., application specific integrated circuit (ASIC)) for performing the functions of one or more of the above-described embodiment(s), and by a method performed by the computer of the system or apparatus by, for example, reading out and executing the computer executable instructions from the storage medium to perform the functions of one or more of the above-described embodiment(s) and/or controlling the one or more circuits to perform the functions of one or more of the above-described embodiment(s). The computer may comprise one or more processors (e.g., central processing unit (CPU), micro processing unit (MPU)) and may include a network of separate computers or separate processors to read out and execute the computer executable instructions. The computer executable instructions may be provided to the computer, for example, from a network or the storage medium. The storage medium may include, for example, one or more of a hard disk, a random-access memory (RAM), a read only memory (ROM), a storage of distributed computing systems, an optical disk (such as a compact disc (CD), digital versatile disc (DVD), or Blu-ray Disc (BD)TM), a flash memory device, a memory card, and the like.

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

(72) This application claims the benefit of Japanese Patent Application No. 2021-096819, filed Jun. 9, 2021, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Claims

1. An apparatus for an optical system including a first magnification varying lens configured to move with zooming, a second magnification varying lens of which a position is controlled based on a position of the first magnification varying lens, and a focus lens configured to adjust an in-focus position, the apparatus comprising: a detector configured to detect the position of the second magnification varying lens; and at least one processor and a memory coupled to the at least one processor storing instructions that, when executed by the at least one processor, cause the at least one processor to function as a setting unit configured to set a driving range of the focus lens based on the position of the second magnification varying lens.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the setting unit sets the driving range of the focus lens based on an amount of shift between the position of the second magnification varying lens corresponding to the position of the first magnification varying lens and the detected position of the second magnification varying lens.
3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the setting unit sets the driving range based on the amount of shift, position sensitivity of the second magnification varying lens, and position

sensitivity of the focus lens.

4. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the setting unit changes a position of a drive control end of the focus lens based on the amount of shift.

5. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein in a case where the amount of shift is less than or equal to a first predetermined value, the setting unit sets a first range as the driving range of the focus lens, and wherein in a case where the amount of shift is greater than the first predetermined value, the setting unit sets a second range different from the first range as the driving range of the focus lens.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein in the case where the amount of shift is greater than the first predetermined value, the setting unit calculates the second range based on the amount of shift, position sensitivity of the second magnification varying lens, and position sensitivity of the focus lens.

7. The apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a storage configured to store information regarding the driving range, wherein the first range and the second range are set in advance and stored in the storage.

8. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the setting unit compares the amount of shift and an amount of shift that is acquired when the driving range is previously set, and in a case where a difference between the amounts of shift is greater than a predetermined value, the setting unit sets the driving range again.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the at least one processor further functions as a control unit configured to control a position of the focus lens, and wherein in a case where the focus lens is at rest at a first position and the setting unit changes the driving range of the focus lens from a third range including the first position to a fourth range not including the first position, the control unit maintains the focus lens at the first position.

10. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the position of the second magnification varying lens corresponding to the position of the first magnification varying lens is the position detected by the detector when the second magnification varying lens is stabilized.

11. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the position of the second magnification varying lens corresponding to the position of the first magnification varying lens is a target position of the second magnification varying lens determined based on the position of the first magnification varying lens.

12. An imaging apparatus comprising: the apparatus according to claim 1; the optical system; and a sensor configured to capture a subject image formed by the optical system.

13. A lens apparatus comprising: the apparatus according to claim 1; and the optical system.

14. An imaging apparatus to which a lens apparatus including an optical system is attachable, the optical system including a first magnification varying lens configured to move with zooming, a second magnification varying lens of which a position is controlled based on a position of the first magnification varying lens, and a focus lens configured to adjust an in-focus position, the imaging apparatus comprising: the apparatus according to claim 1; a sensor configured to capture a subject image formed by the optical system, wherein the imaging apparatus transmits information to the lens apparatus indicating a driving range of the focus lens set by the setting unit.

15. The imaging apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the setting unit sets the driving range of the focus lens based on an amount of shift between the position of the second magnification varying lens corresponding to the position of the first magnification varying lens and the detected position of the second magnification varying lens.

16. The imaging apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the at least one processor further functions as a control unit configured to control a position of the focus lens, and wherein in a case where the focus lens is at rest at a first position and the setting unit changes the driving range of the focus lens from a third range including the first position to a fourth range not including the first position, the control unit maintains the focus lens at the first position.

17. The imaging apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the position of the second magnification varying lens corresponding to the position of the first magnification varying lens is the position detected by the detector when the second magnification varying lens is stabilized.
18. The imaging apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the position of the second magnification varying lens corresponding to the position of the first magnification varying lens is a target position of the second magnification varying lens determined based on the position of the first magnification varying lens.
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