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Image processing apparatus, control method therefor, and storage medium

Abstract

An image processing apparatus includes a first generation unit configured to add moving object blur to at least one image data extracted from moving image data to generate first image data, a second generation unit configured to synthesize a plurality of image data extracted from the moving image data to generate second image data, a selection unit configured to select the first generation unit and the second generation unit based on at least one of information regarding an image capturing device that has captured the moving image data and information regarding a subject, and a recording unit configured to record the first image data or the second image data generated by the first generation unit or the second generation unit selected by the selection unit.

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Background/Summary

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

(1) The present invention relates to an image processing apparatus that can generate a still image from a moving image.

Description of the Related Art

(2) FIG. 4 illustrates a schematic configuration of a known image capturing device that can record a still image during capturing of a moving image. In FIG. 4, for example, an image signal photoelectrically converted by an image capturing unit 401 including an image capturing element such as a CMOS sensor and an optical system is sent to a camera signal processing unit 403 via an A/D conversion unit 402.

(3) In the image data subjected to signal processing by the camera signal processing unit 403, still image data for a still image is recorded in a still image recording medium 404 including, for example, a semiconductor storage device. On the other hand, moving image data is subjected to

signal processing by a video signal processing unit **405**, and then recorded in a moving image recording medium **406** such as a magnetic tape, a semiconductor memory, or a recordable DVD disk.

(4) Furthermore, output of the video signal processing unit **405** is output to a display control unit **407** and displayed on a liquid crystal display (LCD) **408**, which is a display device. The LCD **408** displays still image data recorded on the still image recording medium **404** and moving image data recorded on the moving image recording medium **406**, and also has a function as a viewfinder.

Therefore, the LCD **408** can display moving image data captured by the image capturing unit **401** before start of recording, display moving image data being captured, and display still image data for a check of an image taken in before being recorded on the still image recording medium **404**.

(5) Note that the image capturing device illustrated in FIG. **4** is provided with a central processing unit (CPU) **409**, and various operations are controlled in accordance with an application program stored in a memory **410**. These operations are executed in accordance with various operation signals input from an operation unit **411** operated by a user.

(6) Recent digital cameras can capture a still image while recording a moving image. At this time, when a still image recording button is pressed during moving image capturing, one frame of moving image data transmitted to the camera signal processing unit **403** is extracted as still image data. Then, this still image data is recorded in the still image recording medium **404**.

(7) Here, when a still image is captured during recording of a moving image, there is a case where it is desired to give a relatively long exposure time to capture the still image, that is, it is desired to perform long second exposure. In this case, when the exposure time required for the still image is longer than the time of one frame of the moving image, there is a problem that the moving image data is interrupted and becomes a discontinuous moving image.

(8) As a measure against such a problem, Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 5-276431 discloses a technique of generating a still image having an exposure time shorter than an exposure time required for the still image from a frame image of a moving image, and synthesizing a plurality of still images having the short exposure time to obtain one still image. This enables still image data corresponding to long second exposure to be synthesized and output without interruption of moving image data.

(9) However, in the method disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 5-276431, when vibration is applied to the video camera during capturing of moving image data, a deviation in the angle of view occurs in a plurality of still images to be synthesized due to a deviation in the angle of view between frame images. Therefore, there is a case where one still image obtained by synthesizing the plurality of still images becomes a blurred photograph with camera shake.

(10) On the other hand, for the purpose of capturing a still image with a long second exposure time, there is a case where it is desired to evoke a dynamic feeling by generating appropriate blurring in a subject. In this case, if the number of still images to be synthesized is reduced for the purpose of avoiding occurrence of blurring in the image due to image synthesis, there is a case where the target dynamic feeling is not achieved.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

(11) The present invention has been made in view of the above-described problems, and provides an image processing apparatus that can generate an image appropriately evoking a dynamic feeling when generating a still image from a moving image.

(12) According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided an image processing apparatus comprising: at least one processor or circuit configured to function as: a first generation unit configured to add moving object blur to at least one image data extracted from moving image data to generate first image data; a second generation unit configured to synthesize a plurality of image data extracted from the moving image data to generate second image data; a selection unit configured to select the first generation unit and the second generation unit based on at least one of information regarding an image capturing device that has captured the moving image data and

information regarding a subject; and a recording unit configured to record the first image data or the second image data generated by the first generation unit or the second generation unit selected by the selection unit.

(13) According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for controlling an image processing apparatus including a first generation unit configured to add moving object blur to at least one image data extracted from moving image data to generate first image data, and a second generation unit configured to synthesize a plurality of image data extracted from the moving image data to generate second image data, the method comprising: selecting the first generation unit and the second generation unit based on at least one of information regarding an image capturing device that has captured the moving image data and information regarding a subject; and recording the first image data or the second image data generated by the first generation unit or the selected second generation unit.

(14) Further features of the present invention 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 view illustrating a schematic configuration of an image capturing device in a first embodiment of the present invention.

(2) FIG. 2 is a flowchart for explaining an operation of the image capturing device in the first embodiment.

(3) FIG. 3 is a flowchart for explaining an operation of an image capturing device in a second embodiment.

(4) FIG. 4 is a schematic configuration diagram of a known image capturing device.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

(5) Hereinafter, embodiments will be described in detail with reference to the attached drawings.

Note, the following embodiments are not intended to limit the scope of the claimed invention.

Multiple features are described in the embodiments, but limitation is not made to an invention that requires all such features, and multiple such features may be combined as appropriate.

Furthermore, in the attached drawings, the same reference numerals are given to the same or similar configurations, and redundant description thereof is omitted.

(6) Note that in the description of the present embodiment, vibration applied to an image capturing device from the outside such as camera shake shall be called “shake”, and subject position deviation between frames of a captured image occurring during the exposure period or a blur of the subject image shall be called “blurring”.

First Embodiment

(7) FIG. 1 is a view illustrating a schematic configuration of an image capturing device **100**, which is the first embodiment of the image processing apparatus of the present invention.

(8) In FIG. 1, for example, an image signal photoelectrically converted by an image capturing unit **101** including an image capturing element including a CCD or a CMOS sensor and an optical system is sent to a camera signal processing unit **103** via an A/D conversion unit **102**.

(9) Among the image data subjected to signal processing by the camera signal processing unit **103**, still image data for a still image is recorded in a still image recording medium **104** including a semiconductor storage device, for example. On the other hand, moving image data is subjected to signal processing by the video signal processing unit **105**, and then recorded in a moving image recording medium **106** including, for example, a semiconductor memory or a recordable DVD disk.

(10) Furthermore, output of the video signal processing unit **105** is output to a display control unit **107** and displayed on an LCD **108**, which is a display device. The LCD **108** displays still image

data recorded on the still image recording medium **104** and moving image data recorded on the moving image recording medium **106**, and also functions as a viewfinder.

(11) A CPU **109** including a microcomputer controls the entire image capturing device **100** by executing an application program stored in a memory **110**. Control operation of the CPU **109** is executed in accordance with various operation signals input from an operation unit **111** operated by the user.

(12) In addition to the above configuration, the image capturing device **100** of the present embodiment further includes a shake detection unit **112**, a setting information acquisition unit **113**, a control switching unit **114**, a blurring addition unit **115**, and a synthesis unit **116**.

(13) The shake detection unit **112** detects a shake applied to the image capturing device **100**. The blurring addition unit **115** performs blurring addition to a moving object using deep learning. The synthesis unit **116** synthesizes a plurality of image data. The control switching unit **114** reads image data recorded on the moving image recording medium **106**, and switches (selects) whether to perform blurring addition to a moving object by the blurring addition unit **115** or to synthesize a plurality of image data by the synthesis unit **116** based on the setting information acquired by the setting information acquisition unit **113**. Here, the setting information of the setting information acquisition unit **113** includes information such as a shutter speed, a frame rate, shake information of a gyro sensor, and predetermined subject information described later.

(14) Next, FIG. **2** is a flowchart showing the operation of the image capturing device **100** illustrated in FIG. **1**.

(15) First, in step **S201**, the CPU **109** sets the image capturing device **100** to the moving image capturing mode by a signal from the operation unit **111** generated by operating a mode setting button (not illustrated) of the image capturing device. At this time, the image signal photoelectrically converted by the image capturing unit **101** is sent to the camera signal processing unit **103** via the A/D conversion unit **102**.

(16) In step **S202**, the setting information acquisition unit **113** acquires the shutter speed for still image capturing input via the operation unit **111**, and the CPU **109** sets this shutter speed as the shutter speed for still image capturing.

(17) In step **S203**, the CPU **109** determines whether or not a moving image capturing start button (not illustrated) has been pressed. If the moving image capturing start button has been pressed, the CPU **109** starts capturing of moving image data and recording of the moving image data into the moving image recording medium **106**, then proceeds with the processing to step **S204**, and otherwise returns the processing to step **S202**.

(18) In step **S204**, the CPU **109** determines whether or not end of the moving image capturing has been input by the user. If the end of the moving image capturing has not been input, the CPU **109** proceeds with the processing to step **S205**. If the end of the moving image capturing has been input, the CPU **109** returns the processing to step **S202**, and receives again the setting of the shutter speed for the still image capturing.

(19) In step **S205**, the CPU **109** determines whether or not a still image capturing button (not illustrated) has been pressed by a user operation during moving image capturing. If the still image capturing button has been pressed, the CPU **109** proceeds with the processing to step **S206**, otherwise returns the processing to step **S204**, and again determines whether or not the end of the moving image capturing has been input.

(20) In step **S206**, the CPU **109** reads the shutter speed for the still image capturing acquired in step **S202**.

(21) In step **S207**, the CPU **109** determines whether or not the shutter speed for still image capturing is equal to or greater than a threshold. Based on this determination, the CPU **109** causes the control switching unit **114** to switch between the processing using the blurring addition unit **115** and the processing using the synthesis unit **116**. If the shutter speed is equal to or greater than the predetermined threshold, the CPU **109** proceeds with the processing to step **S208**, and otherwise (if

less than the threshold), the CPU **109** proceeds with the processing to step **S209**.

(22) In step **S208**, the CPU **109** causes the video signal processing unit **105** to read (extract) one or more image data recorded on the moving image recording medium **106** after the timing when the still image capturing button is pressed. The read image data is input to the blurring addition unit **115** via the camera signal processing unit **103**. Based on data learned in advance by a learning method such as deep learning, the blurring addition unit **115** estimates a moving subject in the image data, performs processing of adding moving object blur to the moving subject, and generates one image data.

(23) In step **S209**, while performing moving image capturing, the CPU **109** reads (extracts), to the video signal processing unit **105**, two or more image data recorded on the moving image recording medium **106** after the timing when the still image capturing button is pressed. Then, the CPU **109** inputs a plurality of image data to the synthesis unit **116** via the camera signal processing unit **103**, and synthesizes the plurality of image data, thereby generating one image data.

(24) For example, when the shutter speed is set to 1 second and the frame rate is set to 30 fps, the CPU **109** performs synthesis of 30 image data. The synthesis processing here may be addition processing in each pixel of the plurality of image data, or may be averaging processing in which the plurality of image data are added and then divided by the number of image data. In the case of the addition processing, each of the image data before the addition processing is multiplied by a predetermined negative gain value so that the one image data generated by the synthesis does not become bright. For example, as an example of setting of the negative gain, when the number of images to be added is 10, the signal of each of the image data becomes 1/10 by multiplying by the gain value of 1/10, and the image data after the addition processing becomes proper exposure.

(25) In step **S210**, the CPU **109** records, on the still image recording medium **104**, the image data generated by the blurring addition processing in step **S208** or the synthesis processing in step **S209**.

(26) In the present embodiment, regarding capturing of long second exposure when simultaneously recording moving image data and still image data, based on the shutter speed, the blurring addition method is switched to a method by deep learning processing or a method by image synthesis processing. This makes it possible to generate still image data that evokes a dynamic feeling due to blurring of the subject image while suppressing image synthesis in which the entire angle of view is deviated when recording still image data of long second exposure.

(27) In the present embodiment, the control switching unit **114** switches the processing of leaving blurring in the image in accordance with the shutter speed, but the condition necessary for the switching is not limited to this. For example, shake information of the gyro sensor may be used as the switching condition. For example, the gyro sensor disposed in the shake detection unit **112** detects a shake amount due to camera shake or the like. The control switching unit **114** determines whether or not the detected shake amount is equal to or greater than a predetermined threshold stored in advance in the memory **110**, and performs processing using the blurring addition unit **115** if the detected shake amount is equal to or greater than the threshold, and performs processing using the synthesis unit **116** if the detected shake amount is less than the threshold.

Second Embodiment

(28) FIG. **3** is a flowchart showing the operation of the image capturing device in the second embodiment.

(29) Note that in the second embodiment, the basic configuration of the image capturing device is identical to that of the image capturing device illustrated in FIG. **1** used in the description of the first embodiment. Note that in the second embodiment, the memory **110** stores in advance a subject (specific subject) whose accuracy of prediction results output from a prediction model is lower than a predetermined value, for example, a low-contrast texture, a subject that moves in a complicated manner such as a running person or an animal, or the like. In the present embodiment, when a subject with low accuracy of these prediction results exists in the screen, there is a possibility that a desired result is not obtained even if the blurring addition processing is performed, and therefore

the blurring addition processing by the prediction model is not used.

(30) First, in step **S301**, the CPU **109** sets the image capturing device **100** to the moving image capturing mode by a signal from the operation unit **111** generated by operating a mode setting button (not illustrated) of the image capturing device. At this time, the image signal photoelectrically converted by the image capturing unit **101** is sent to the camera signal processing unit **103** via the A/D conversion unit **102**.

(31) In step **S302**, the setting information acquisition unit **113** acquires the shutter speed for still image capturing input via the operation unit **111**, and the CPU **109** sets this shutter speed as the shutter speed for still image capturing.

(32) In step **S303**, the CPU **109** determines whether or not the moving image capturing start button (not illustrated) has been pressed. If the moving image capturing start button has been pressed, the CPU **109** starts capturing of moving image data and recording of the moving image data into the moving image recording medium **106**, then proceeds with the processing to step **S304**, and otherwise returns the processing to step **S302**.

(33) In step **S304**, the CPU **109** determines whether or not end of the moving image capturing has been input by the user. If the end of the moving image capturing has not been input, the CPU **109** proceeds with the processing to step **S305**. If the end of the moving image capturing has been input, the CPU **109** returns the processing to step **S302**, and receives again the setting of the shutter speed for the still image capturing.

(34) In step **S305**, the CPU **109** determines whether or not a still image capturing button (not illustrated) has been pressed by the user operation at the time of moving image capturing. If the still image capturing button has been pressed, the CPU **109** proceeds with the processing to step **S306**, otherwise returns the processing to step **S304**, and again determines whether or not the end of the moving image capturing has been input.

(35) In step **S306**, the CPU **109** reads the shutter speed for the still image capturing acquired in step **S302**.

(36) In step **S307**, the CPU **109** reads, into the control switching unit **114**, subject information with low accuracy of the prediction results output from the prediction model stored in advance in the memory **110**.

(37) In step **S308**, the CPU **109** determines whether or not the shutter speed for still image capturing is equal to or greater than a threshold. If the shutter speed is equal to or greater than the predetermined threshold, the CPU **109** proceeds with the processing to step **S309**, and otherwise, the CPU **109** proceeds with the processing to step **S311**.

(38) In step **S309**, while performing moving image capturing, the CPU **109** reads, to the video signal processing unit **105**, one or more image data recorded on the moving image recording medium **106** after the timing when the still image capturing button is pressed. Then, the CPU **109** recognizes the subject included in the read image data, and determines whether or not the subject stored in advance in the memory **110** is included in the image data. Based on this determination, the CPU **109** causes the control switching unit **114** to switch between the processing using the blurring addition unit **115** and the processing using the synthesis unit **116**. If the subject stored in advance in the memory **110** is not included in the image data, the CPU **109** proceeds with the processing to step **S310**, and otherwise, the CPU **109** proceeds with the processing to step **S311**.

(39) In step **S310**, the CPU **109** causes the video signal processing unit **105** to read one or more image data recorded on the moving image recording medium **106** after the timing when the still image capturing button is pressed. The read image data is input to the blurring addition unit **115** via the camera signal processing unit **103**. Based on data learned in advance by a learning method such as deep learning, the blurring addition unit **115** estimates a moving subject in the image data, performs processing of adding moving object blur to the moving subject, and generates one image data.

(40) In step **S311**, while performing moving image capturing, the CPU **109** reads, to the video

signal processing unit **105**, two or more image data recorded on the moving image recording medium **106** after the timing when the still image capturing button is pressed. Then, the CPU **109** inputs a plurality of two or more image data to the synthesis unit **116** via the camera signal processing unit **103**, and synthesizes the plurality of image data, thereby generating one image data. (41) In step **S312**, the CPU **109** records, on the still image recording medium **104**, the image data generated by the blurring addition processing in step **S310** or the synthesis processing in step **S311**. (42) In the present embodiment, regarding capturing of long second exposure when simultaneously recording moving image data and still image data, based on the shutter speed and predetermined subject information set in advance, the blurring addition method is switched to a method by deep learning processing or a method by image synthesis processing. This makes it possible to generate still image data that evokes a dynamic feeling due to blurring of the subject image without performing blurring addition processing to the subject with low accuracy of the prediction results output from the prediction model.

Other Embodiments

(43) Embodiment(s) of the present invention 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.

(44) While the present invention has been described with reference to exemplary embodiments, it is to be understood that the invention 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.

(45) This application claims the benefit of Japanese Patent Application No. 2023-006713, filed Jan. 19, 2023, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Claims

1. An image processing apparatus comprising: at least one processor or circuit configured to function as: a first generation unit configured to add moving object blur to at least one image data extracted from moving image data to generate first image data; a second generation unit configured to synthesize a plurality of image data extracted from the moving image data to generate second image data; a selection unit configured to select the first generation unit and the second generation unit based on at least one of information regarding an image capturing device that has captured the moving image data and information regarding a subject; and a recording unit configured to record the first image data or the second image data generated by the first generation unit or the second generation unit selected by the selection unit.

2. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein based on data learned in advance by deep learning, the first generation unit estimates a moving subject in extracted image data, and adds moving object blur to the moving subject.
 3. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second generation unit adds a plurality of extracted image data and outputs one of the second image data.
 4. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second generation unit averages a plurality of extracted image data and outputs one of the second image data.
 5. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the information regarding the image capturing device is at least one of a shutter speed, a frame rate, and a shake amount of the image capturing device.
 6. The image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the selection unit selects the first generation unit if the shutter speed is equal to or greater than a threshold, and selects the second generation unit if the shutter speed is less than the threshold.
 7. The image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the shake amount is detected by a gyro sensor disposed in the image capturing device.
 8. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the information regarding the subject is information as to whether or not a specific subject is included in extracted image data.
 9. The image processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the specific subject is a subject whose accuracy of prediction results output from a prediction model is lower than a predetermined value.
 10. The image processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the selection unit selects the first generation unit if the specific subject is not included in the extracted image data, and selects the second generation unit if the specific subject is included.
 11. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an image capturing device configured to capture the moving image data.
 12. A method for controlling an image processing apparatus including a first generation unit configured to add moving object blur to at least one image data extracted from moving image data to generate first image data, and a second generation unit configured to synthesize a plurality of image data extracted from the moving image data to generate second image data, the method comprising: selecting the first generation unit and the second generation unit based on at least one of information regarding an image capturing device that has captured the moving image data and information regarding a subject; and recording the first image data or the second image data generated by the first generation unit or the selected second generation unit.
 13. A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to function as each means of an image processing apparatus, the image processing apparatus comprising: at least one processor or circuit configured to function as: a first generation unit configured to add moving object blur to at least one image data extracted from moving image data to generate first image data; a second generation unit configured to synthesize a plurality of image data extracted from the moving image data to generate second image data; a selection unit configured to select the first generation unit and the second generation unit based on at least one of information regarding an image capturing device that has captured the moving image data and information regarding a subject; and a recording unit configured to record the first image data or the second image data generated by the first generation unit or the second generation unit selected by the selection unit.
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