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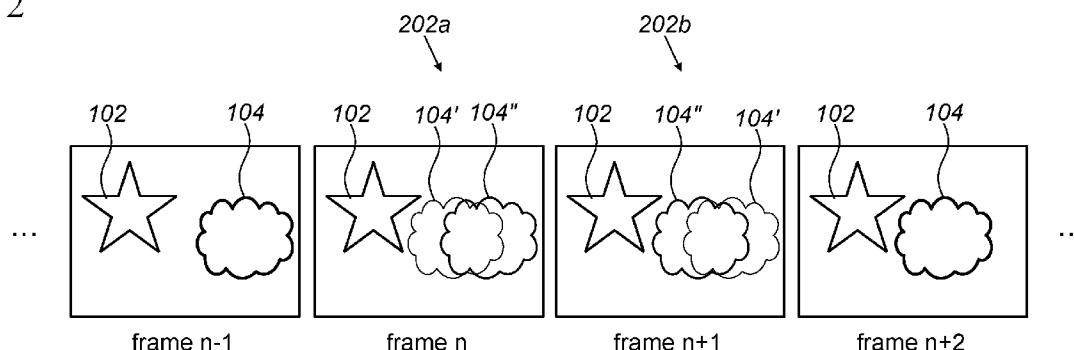
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FIG. 2



(57) Abstract: Methods that provide a smooth transition in switching a dual-camera output from an output of a first sub-camera to an output of a second sub-camera comprise forming at least one composite image based on a weighted combination of a first sub-camera image and a second sub-camera image, switching the dual-camera output from an image based on the first sub-camera image to an image based on the at least one composite image, and further switching the dual-camera output from the image based on the at least one composite image to an image based on the second sub-camera image.

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## DUAL-CAMERA SYSTEM WITH IMPROVED VIDEO SMOOTH TRANSITION BY IMAGE BLENDING

### CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

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This application claims priority from US Provisional Patent Application No. 62/359,369 filed July 7, 2016, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

### BACKGROUND

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Co-assigned US patent No. 9185291 teaches a zoom dual-camera system with smooth transition between two sub-cameras in video mode during zooming-in and zooming-out. Exemplarily, one sub-camera is a "Wide" sub-camera with a Wide field of view ( $FOV_w$ ) and the other sub-camera is a "Tele" sub-camera with a Tele FOV ( $FOV_T$ ) narrower than  $FOV_w$ .

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In known art, optical zoom is achieved in video mode "without fusion", by switching between frames of the two sub-cameras. To avoid discontinuities in video mode, the switching includes applying additional processing blocks, for example image scaling and shifting. When zooming-in or zooming-out, the transition from one sub-camera to the other sub-camera occurs within one frame. For example, when a user-determined (or "user-defined") zoom factor ( $ZF$ ) is below a certain threshold denoted  $ZF\_transition\_threshold$ , the dual-camera image output to the observer (i.e. the image seen by the observer, also referred the as "camera output image") is taken from a stream of frames output by one sub-camera, with additional processing applied to it, including shift, scale, color correction, white balance, etc.. When the user-determined  $ZF$  is equal to or greater than  $ZF\_transition\_threshold$ , the camera output image is taken from is taken from a stream of frames output by the other sub-camera, with additional processing applied to it, including shift, scale, color correction, white balance, etc.

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This shift in sub-camera output can result in a discontinuity observed by the observer in the stream of camera output images when the transition occurs. This discontinuity may be visible in object position change, point of view shift, color change, etc. In known art, this discontinuity is minimized by applying shift, scale, color correction etc. to the stream of frames from the two sub-cameras. While solutions to mitigate the discontinuity effect have been suggested by at least some of the present inventors, e.g. in US patent 9185291, improvements in the transition process to further mitigate the discontinuity are still required.

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## SUMMARY

Embodiments disclosed herein teach improvements of smooth transition between two sub-cameras in a dual-camera system in video mode, whereby the transition appears smoother to an observer. As used herein, "smooth transition" refers to a process applied on the frames of each sub-camera such that the transition of the (dual) camera output from a frame based on the output of one sub-camera to a frame based on the output of another sub-camera is as unnoticeable as possible.

In an exemplary embodiment, there is provided a method for switching a dual-camera output from an output of a first sub-camera to an output of a second sub-camera, comprising forming at least one composite image based on a weighted combination of a first sub-camera image and a second sub-camera image, switching the dual-camera output from an image based on the first sub-camera image to an image based on the at least one composite image, and further switching the dual-camera output from the image based on the at least one composite image to an image based on the second sub-camera image.

In an exemplary embodiment, the at least one composite image includes a single composite image.

In an exemplary embodiment, the at least one composite image includes a plurality of composite images, the switching a dual-camera output from an image based on the first sub-camera image to an image based on the at least one composite image includes switching to a first image of the plurality of composite images and the switching the dual-camera output from the image based on the at least one composite image to an image based on the second sub-camera image includes switching the dual-camera output from a last image of the plurality of composite images.

In an exemplary embodiment, the weighted combination uses a first weight for the first sub-camera output and a second weight for the second sub-camera output, and the first and second weights add up to 1.

In an exemplary embodiment, the weighted combination uses a first weight for the first sub-camera output and a second weight for the second sub-camera output, and the first and second weights are different in each of the plurality of the composite images.

In various exemplary embodiments, the first and second weights add up to 1.

In an exemplary embodiment, the first and second weights depend on time.

In an exemplary embodiment, the first and second weights depend on factors other than time.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Aspects, embodiments and features disclosed herein will become apparent from the following detailed description when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

5           FIG. 1 shows a dual-camera output stream of images obtain using known-art transition;

          FIG. 2 shows a dual-camera output stream of images using an embodiment of a transition method disclosed herein.

## 10    DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Embodiments disclosed herein offer improved methods for mitigating a discontinuity observed by an observer in a stream of dual-camera camera output images (also referred to as a stream of dual-camera frames) when a transition occurs from an output image (or an output stream of frames) obtained from one sub-camera to an output image (or an output stream of frames) obtained from the other sub-camera. As used herein, any of the terms "output image", "camera output image" and "dual-camera output image" refers to the actual dual-camera image seen by the user. Such a transition may occur when switching the dual-camera output from the output of one sub-camera to the output of the other sub-camera. In an exemplary embodiment, a method performs the following: when a user-defined ZF requires a sub-camera output switch from a first sub-camera output to a second sub-camera output, for a certain period of time the dual-camera output image is a weighted combination of the two sub-camera outputs (instead of an abrupt switch from the first sub-camera output to the second sub-camera output). The weighting is a function of time, scene parameters such as depth range, lighting conditions, motion, color information, luminance levels, focus position, gyro data, power consumption, device heating and zoom factor. For example, the certain period of time may span 10 frames, during which 10 frames the first frame in the stream of frames coming from the two sub-cameras will have high weight for the first sub-camera output and small weight for the second sub-camera output, the second frame in the stream of frames coming from the two sub-cameras will have a somewhat lower weight for the first sub-camera output and somewhat higher weight for the second sub-camera output than in the first frame, etc. In other words, subsequent frames have gradually decreasing weight for the first sub-camera output and increasing weight for the second sub-camera output, until, after

the last frame, the output will be only from the second sub-camera output.

In an exemplary embodiment, the two weights that weigh the first sub-camera output and the second sub-camera output add up to 1.

In an exemplary embodiment, the dual-camera output image is calculated according to the following formula:

$$Out(x, y) = \alpha(t)In_1(x, y) + (1 - \alpha(t))In_2(x, y), \quad (1)$$

where  $Out(x, y)$  is the camera output image value at position  $(x, y)$ ,  $\alpha(t)$  is the weight which changes as a function of time  $t$ ,  $In_1(x, y)$  is the output image from the first sub-camera and  $In_2(x, y)$  is the output image from the second sub-camera.

In an exemplary embodiment,  $\alpha(t)$  is defined according to the following formula:

$$\alpha(t) = \frac{(t_e - t_s) - (t - t_s)}{(t_e - t_s)}, \quad (2)$$

where  $t_s$  is the transition period start time, equal to the time when the user-defined ZF crosses ZF\_transition\_threshold either from a lower ZF than ZF\_transition\_threshold to a higher ZF than ZF\_transition\_threshold, or vice versa, and  $t_e$  is the time when the transition period ends. In other embodiments,  $\alpha(t)$  may be defined by any other dependency on  $t$  that provide an  $\alpha$  value close to 1 for  $t_s$  and that gradually increases  $\alpha(t)$  to a value close to 0 for  $t_e$ .

In another embodiment, the camera output image is calculated according to the following formula:

$$O_n(x, y) = \alpha_n(n, x, y, ZF, W_n(x, y), T_n(x, y) \dots)P_n\{W_n(x, y)\} + (1 - \alpha_n(n, x, y, ZF, W_n(x, y), T_n(x, y) \dots))Q_n\{T_n(x, y)\} \quad (3)$$

where  $W_n$  and  $T_n$  are the  $n^{\text{th}}$  frames in the stream we receive for the wide and tele,  $P_n$  and  $Q_n$  are spatial transformations (e.g. projective transformation on the frames), and  $\alpha_n(n, x, y, ZF, \dots)$  is a weighting factor. The blending function  $\alpha$  may depend, for example, on time, on spatial coordinates, on the zoom factor, on the pixels values of each frame, etc. The  $\alpha$  function returns a value between 0 and 1. Note that in contrast with the dependency of weight  $\alpha$  on time in Eq. 2, in Eq. (3) the dependency of the weights may be on factors other than time.

FIG. 1 shows the dual-camera output stream of images when using known-art transition. Each image includes a star **102** and a cloud **104**. In frames  $n-1$  and  $n$ , the dual-

camera output is output from the first sub-camera. The output of the second sub-camera becomes the dual-camera output in frame n+1 (i.e. the "transition" from the first sub-camera output to the second camera output is in frame n+1), and there is a clear difference in the scene shown by these two frames: in frame n, star **102** and cloud **104** are separated by a larger (and noticeable) distance than in frame n+1. That is, cloud **104** "jumps" relative to star **102** when going from frame n to frame n+1. In contrast, FIG. 2 illustrates a much smoother transition. In FIG. 2, the transition starts with a dual-camera output frame n, in which the output image is already a "composite image" **202a** of a weighted combination of the two sub-camera outputs, an output of the first sub-camera with a star **102** and a cloud **104'** and an output of the second sub-camera with a star **102** and a cloud **104''**. For example, in frame n, composite image **202a** includes a 90% weight for the first sub-camera output (i.e. 90% weight of cloud **104** in the form of a cloud **104'**) and a 10% weight for the second camera output (i.e. 10% weight of cloud **104** in the form of a cloud **104''**). In the following frame, n+1, the output image is a "composite image" **202b** of a weighted combination of the two sub-camera outputs in which the weighting is changed to (for example) a 10% weight of cloud **104** in the form of a cloud **104'** for the first sub-camera output and a 90% weight of cloud **104** in the form of a cloud **104''** for the second sub-camera output. In frame n+2, the camera output image is the second sub-camera output only. Clearly the transition from frame n-1 to frame n+1 is much smoother in FIG. 2 than in FIG. 1. The transition itself may involve a single frame with a composite image (with for example 50%-50% weights) or a plurality of such frames, each having successive smaller weights for the first sub-camera image and larger weights for the second sub-camera image.

While this disclosure describes a limited number of embodiments, it will be appreciated that many variations, modifications and other applications of such embodiments may be made. In general, the disclosure is to be understood as not limited by the specific embodiments described herein, but only by the scope of the appended claims.

All references mentioned in this specification are herein incorporated in their entirety by reference into the specification, to the same extent as if each individual reference was specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated herein by reference. In addition, citation or identification of any reference in this application shall not be construed as an admission that such reference is available as prior art to the present application.

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A method for switching a dual-camera output from an output of a first sub-camera to an output of a second sub-camera, comprising:
  - a) forming at least one composite image based on a weighted combination of a first sub-camera image and a second sub-camera image;
  - b) switching the dual-camera output from an image based on the first sub-camera image to an image based on the at least one composite image; and
  - c) further switching the dual-camera output from the image based on the at least one composite image to an image based on the second sub-camera image.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one composite image includes a single composite image.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one composite image includes a plurality of composite images, wherein the switching a dual-camera output from an image based on the first sub-camera image to an image based on the at least one composite image includes switching to a first image of the plurality of composite images and wherein the switching the dual-camera output from the image based on the at least one composite image to an image based on the second sub-camera image includes switching the dual-camera output from a last image of the plurality of composite images.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the weighted combination uses a first weight for the first sub-camera output and a second weight for the second sub-camera output, and wherein the first and second weights add up to 1.
5. The method of claim 3, wherein the weighted combination uses a first weight for the first sub-camera output and a second weight for the second sub-camera output, and wherein the first and second weights are different in each of the plurality of the composite images.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the first and second weights add up to 1.
7. The method of any of claims 4-6, wherein the first and second weights depend on time.

8. The method of any of claims 4-6, wherein the first and second weights depend on factors other than time.



FIG. 1

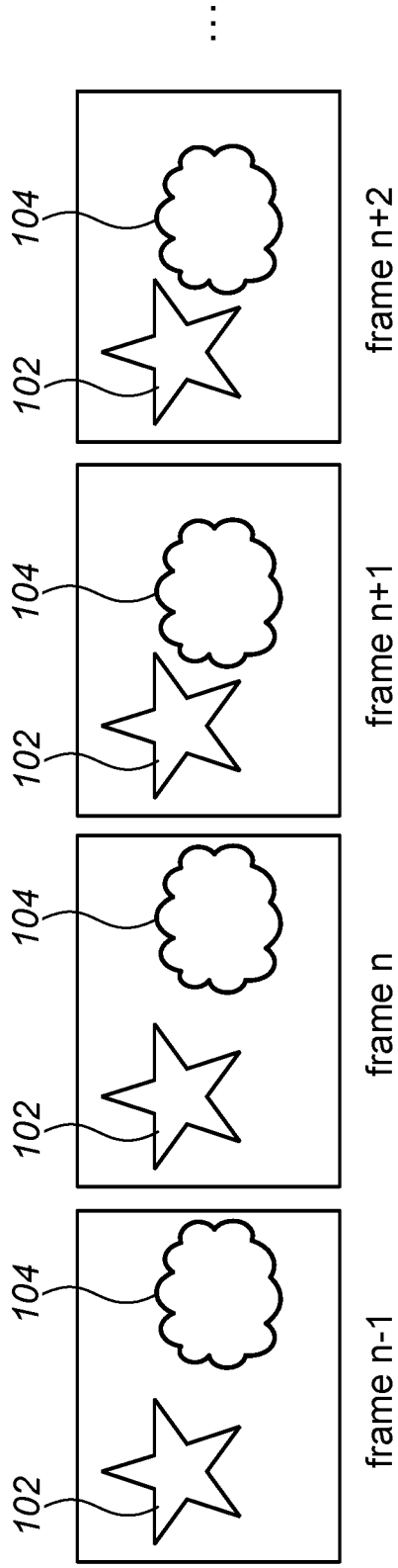
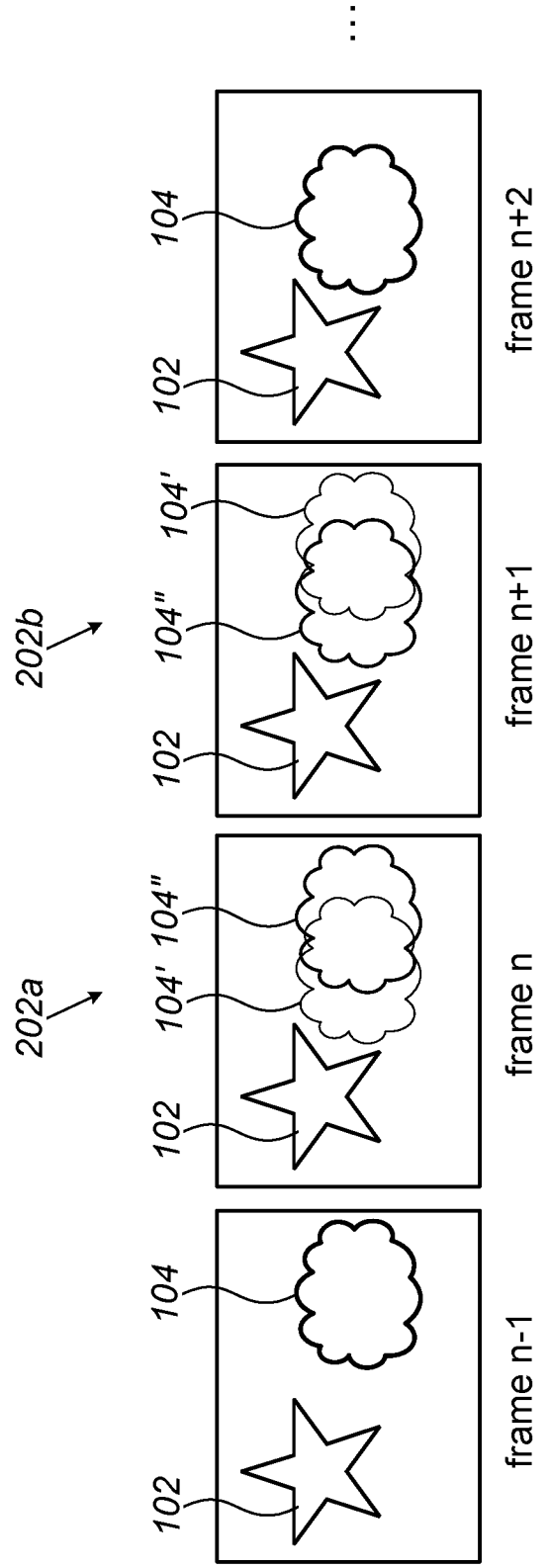


FIG. 2



## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IB 17/54037

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - G06T 5/50; H04N 5/225, H04N 5/262, H04N 5/265 (2017.01)

CPC - G06T 5/50; H04N 5/2628; G06T 3/4007, G06T 2207/20212, G06T 2207/20216, G06T 2207/20221; H04N 5/225, H04N 5/2258, H04N 5/2259, H04N 5/23232, H04N 5/23245, H04N 5/23296, H04N 5/262; G02B 13/0015, G02B 13/009, G02B 27/0075

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

See Search History Document

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

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## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 2015/185962 A (Dainippon Printing Co. Ltd.) 22 October 2015 (22.10.2015), Abstract, para [0020], [0024], [0056], [0075]	1-8
A	WO 2008/093277 A2 (Koninkl Philips Electronics N.V.) 07 August 2008 (07.08.2008), pg. 1, ln. 16 - pg. 2, ln. 5	1-8
A	US 2006/0082663 A1 (Rooy et al.) 20 April 2006 (20.04.2006), para [0012], [0024]-[0028]	1-8
A	US 2007/0025714 A1 (Shiraki) 01 February 2007 (01.02.2007), para [0052]-[0055]	1-8
A,P	AU 2015/258346 A1 (Canon Kabushiki Kaisha) 08 June 2017 (08.06.2017), para [0079]-[0092]	1-8

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