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High Performance Zoom Lens System

Abstract

A high performance zoom lens system (50) formed by multiple focus lens groups, multiple zoom lens groups and single auxiliary lens group aligned on a common optical axis and arranged to collect radiation emanating from an object (O) space and deliver that radiation to an axially stationary real image in an image space, such as a on a film plane or video CCD. The multiple focus lens groups comprise a first focus lens group (52) of negative optical power that is axially movable and contains at least one non-spherical, non-plano, optically refractive surface, and a second focus lens group (55) of positive optical power that is axially movable. The multiple zoom lens groups comprise a first zoom lens group (55) of negative optical power that is axially movable, and a second zoom lens group (56) of positive optical power that is axially movable and contains an optical stop or iris. The single auxiliary lens group is of relative weak positive optical power compared to the other lens groups is axially stationary and contains at least one non-spherical, non-plano optically refractive surface. The remaining optically refractive surfaces of said zoom lens system being substantially spherical or plano. By axial positioning of said multiple focus lens groups and said multiple zoom lens groups, the zoom lens system provides a high level of optical performance at said real image through its entire and substantial focusing and zooming range.

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Invention Title: High Performance Zoom Lens System

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to me/us:-

DESCRIPTIONHigh Performance Zoom Lens System

This is a nonprovisional application based on and claims priority from the provisional application filed July 25, 1997, Serial No. 60/053,743.

5 This invention relates to an optical objective lens system for cameras and, in particular, to a high performance zoom lens system that produces a high quality image over the full zoom range.

High performance optical systems, such as for
10 cinematography, high definition television ("HDTV") and advanced television ("ATV") require superior optical characteristics and performance which is normally accomplished by using separate objective lenses of different fixed focal lengths for achieving different
15 photographic functions that are determined or influenced by the focal length. There are cinematographic advantages to using zoom lenses to vary the effective focal length of the objective lens without the necessity of changing objective lenses and also there is possible reduction in
20 the cost over having several different lenses, particularly within the normal range of desired focal lengths that might be used in photographing normal scenes which require a range from very wide angle to standard focal lengths. However, previously available zoom lenses
25 have one or more undesirable limitations such as the range of focal lengths, the inability to focus adequately over the entire focal length range, the inability to focus on close objects, the lack of adequate optical performance over the entire focal length range and focus distance, the
30 cost, the large size and the like.

It is an object of this invention to provide a high performance zoom lens system that provides optimum optical performance over the entire zoom focal length range and at focus distances from very close to infinity.

Specifically, it is an object of this invention to provide such a zoom lens system having a focal length zoom region from about 14.5mm to 50mm that has substantially the optical performance of high quality fixed objective lenses of that same range.

Another object of this invention is to provide a high performance zoom lens system comprising multiple focus lens groups, multiple zoom lens groups and a single auxiliary lens group aligned on the optical axis wherein each of the multiple focus lens groups and each of the multiple zoom lens groups are axially movable along the optical axis for focusing and zooming but with the single auxiliary lens group and the real image plane of the camera remaining at fixed locations. A still further object is to provide such a zoom lens system wherein the basic power configuration of the multiple focus lens group is negative.

Brief Description of the Drawings:

Fig. 1 is an optical diagram of the high performance zoom lens system of the present invention; and

Figs. 2-5 are optical diagrams of the zoom lens system of Fig. 1 illustrating different positions of the focus lens groups and zoom lens groups to produce different focal lengths and focus distances.

Description of a Preferred Embodiment of the Invention:

A preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described by way of a design example with accompanying figures and tables. Referring first to Fig. 1, each lens element is identified by a numeral from 1 through 23 and the general configuration of each lens element is depicted, but the actual radius of each lens surface is set forth below in a table. The lens surfaces, including dummy optical surfaces used for design calculation purposes, are identified by the letter "S" followed by a numeral from S1 through S48.

Each lens element has its opposite surfaces identified by a separate but consecutive surface number as, for example, lens element 1 has lens surfaces S2 and S3, lens element 11 has lens surfaces S21 and S22 and so forth, as shown in Fig. 1, except that for doublet lens components 1D, 2D, 3D and 4D the coincident facing lens surfaces are given a single surface number. For example, doublet 1D is comprised of lens element 5 having a front lens surface S11 and a rear lens surface S12 and lens element 6 having a front lens surface S12 (coincidental) and a rear lens surface S13. The location of the object to be photographed, particularly as it relates to focus distance, is identified by a vertical line and the letter "O" on the optical axis, dummy optical surfaces that are used in the optical data tables are identified by the vertical lines numbered S1, S10, S40 and S47, and the real image surface is identified by the numeral S48. Dummy surface S47 used for making the calculations substantially coincides with real image surface S48 at all positions of the focus and zoom lens groups. All of the lens surfaces are spherical except lens surfaces 3 and 44 which are aspheric surfaces that are non-spherical, non-plano but rotationally symmetrical about the optical axis.

Before describing the detailed characteristics of the lens elements, a broad description of the lens groups and their axial positions and movement will be given for the zoom lens system, generally designated 50, of this invention. Beginning from the end facing the object O to be photographed, i.e. the left end in Fig. 1, the focus lens group 51 comprises a first focus lens group 52 comprised of lens elements 1 and 2, and a second focus lens group 53 comprised of lens elements 3 and 4. A zoom lens group 54 comprises a first zoom lens group 55 that functions as a zoom compensator and a second lens group 56 that functions as a zoom variator. The zoom compensator 55 includes, from left to right in Fig. 1, a first doublet lens component 1D comprised of lens elements 5 and 6, a

singlet lens element 7, a second doublet lens component 2D comprised of lens elements 8 and 9, and a singlet lens element 10. The zoom variator 56 includes, from left to right in Fig. 1, singlet lens element 11, an adjustable
 5 optical stop (iris) S23, singlet lens elements 12-15, a first doublet lens component 3D comprising lens elements 16 and 17, a second doublet lens component 4D comprising lens elements 18 and 19, and a singlet lens element 20.

The auxiliary lens group 57 is comprised of singlet lens
 10 elements 21, 22 and 23.

The positive or negative power of each lens element is set forth below in TABLE 1. The resultant optical power of each subgroup of lenses is as follows; the first focus group 52 is negative, the second focus group 53 is
 15 positive, the zoom compensator 55 is negative, the zoom variator 56 is positive, and the auxiliary lens group 57 is weakly positive. The combined optical power of the focus lens group 51 is negative.

Each of the lens groups 52, 53, 55 and 56 are movable
 20 in both directions along the optical axis for focusing and zooming. The auxiliary lens group 57 remains stationary and at a fixed distance from the real image surface S48. The horizontal arrows with arrowheads on both ends in the upper portion of Fig. 1 indicate that each of the lens
 25 subgroups 52, 53, and 56 is movable in both axial directions but in a monotonic manner (i.e. in only one direction when progressing from one extreme to the other of adjustments) and the half-circle arrow and arrowheads for zoom lens subgroup 55 indicates that its movement is
 30 non-monotonic, that is, the movement reverses during zooming in one optical direction, such as from the minimum focal length to the maximum focal length.

While only the lens elements are physically shown in Fig. 1, it is to be understood that conventional
 35 mechanical devices and mechanisms are provided for supporting the lens elements and for causing axial

movement of the movable lens groups in a conventional lens housing or barrel.

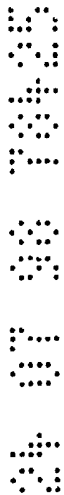
The lens construction and fabrication data for the above described zoom lens system 50 is set forth below in TABLE 1, which is extracted from data produced by CODE V® optical design software that is commercially available from Optical Research Associates, Inc., Pasadena, California, U.S.A., which was also used for producing the optical diagrams Figs. 1-5. All of the data in TABLE 1 is given at a temperature of 20°C (68°F) and standard atmospheric pressure (760mm Hg). Throughout this specification, including the Tables, all measurements are in millimeters (mm) with the exception of wavelengths which are in nanometers (nm). In TABLE 1, the first column "ITEM" identifies each optical element and each location, i.e. object plane, dummy surface, etc., with the same numeral or label as used in Fig. 1. The second and third columns identify the "Group" and "Subgroup", respectively, to which that optical element (lens) belongs with the same numerals used in Fig. 1. The fourth column "Surface" is a list of the surface numbers of the object (line "0" in Fig. 1 and "Object Plane" in TABLE 1), the dummy optical surfaces S1, S10, S40 and S47, the Iris (stop) S23 and each of the actual surfaces of the lenses, as identified in Fig. 1. The fifth and sixth columns "Focus Position" and "Zoom Position", respectively, identify three typical focus positions (F1, F2 and F3) of the focus lens groups 52 and 53 and four typical positions (Z1, Z2, Z3 and Z4) of the zoom lens group 55 and 56 wherein there are changes in the distance (separation) between some of the surfaces listed in the fourth column, as described below more thoroughly. The seventh column "Thickness or Separation" is the axial distance between that surface (fourth column) and the next surface, for example, the distance between surface S2 to surface S3 is 5.000mm. The eighth column, headed by the legend "Radius of Curvature", is a list of the optical surface radius of

curvature for each surface, with a minus sign (-) meaning the center of the radius of curvature is to the left of the surface, as viewed in Fig. 1, and "Flat" meaning either an optically flat surface or a dummy optical surface. The asterisk (*) for surfaces S3 and S44 indicate these are aspheric surfaces for which the "radius of curvature" is a base radius, and the formula and coefficients for those two surfaces are set forth as a footnote to TABLE 1 at the * (asterisk). The ninth column "Optical Power" sets forth whether the lens element ("Item" in the first column) is of a positive (Pos.) or negative (Neg.) optical power.

The next three columns of TABLE 1 relate to the "Material" between that surface (fourth column) and the next surface to the right in Fig. 1, with the tenth column "Type" indicating whether there is a lens (Glass) or empty space (Air) between those two surfaces. All of the lenses are glass and the eleventh column "Code" identifies the optical glass. For convenience, all of the lens glass has been selected from glass available from Ohara Corporation and the twelfth column "Name" lists the Ohara identification for each glass type, but it is to be understood that any equivalent or adequate glass may be used.

The last column of TABLE 1 headed "Maximum Aperture Diameter" provides the maximum diameter for each surface through which the light rays pass. All of the maximum aperture diameters, except for the Iris surface S23, are given at a wavelength of 546.1 nanometers for a maximum image height of 14.45mm and a constant f-number of f/2.2 at the Image Plane, for all Focus and Zoom Positions. The maximum aperture diameter of the Iris surface S23 is given in TABLE 1 at a wavelength of 546.1 nanometers and an f-number of f/2.2 at the Image Plane for Zoom Position Z4. For Zoom Positions 1, 2 and 3 the maximum aperture diameters at the Iris surface S23 at a wavelength of 546.1 nanometers and an f-number of f/2.2 at the Image Plane are

29.30mm, 33.35mm and 39.26mm, respectively. At the Image Plane S48, the Maximum Aperture Diameter is given as a paraxial value.



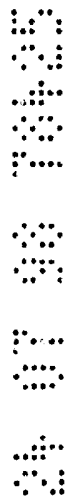


TABLE I OPTICAL PRESCRIPTION

Item	Group	Subgroup	Surface	Focus- ing Position	Zoom Position	Thickness or Separation (mm)	Radius of Curvature (mm)	Optical Power	Material			Maximum Aperture Diameter (mm)
									Type	Code	Name	
Object Plane			0	F1	All	Infinite	Flat		Air			
				F2	All	330.000						
				F3	All	133.000						
Dummy Surface			S1	All	All	1.000	Flat		Air			
1	51	52	S2	All	All	5.000	218.818	Neg.	Glass	438950	FPL53	124.80
			S3	All	All	23.534	38.506"		Air			90.57
2	51	52	S4	All	All	3.800	222.116	Neg.	Glass	618634	PHM52	90.24
			S5	F1	All	5.300	43.328		Air			73.22
				F2	All	6.322						
				F3	All	7.260						
3	51	53	S6	All	All	15.592	51.336	Pos.	Glass	805254	PBH6W	73.95
			S7	All	All	0.100	77.033		Air			68.33
4	51	53	S8	All	All	7.697	43.190	Pos.	Glass	438950	FPL53	64.89
			S9	F1	All	4.431	55.573		Air			62.41

TABLE I OPTICAL PRESCRIPTION

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Item	Group	Subgroup	Surface	Focus- ing Position	Zoom Position	Thickness or Separation (mm)	Radius of Curvature (mm)	Optical Power	Material			Maximum Aperture Diameter (mm)
									Type	Code	Name	
				F2	All	14.508						
				F3	All	24.155						
Dummy Surface			S10	All	Z1	0.109	Flat		Air			
				All	Z2	27.982						
				All	Z3	9.423						
				All	Z4	0.100						
5	54	55	S11	All	All	5.181	129.546	Pos.	Glass	636354	PBM6	48.90
6	54	55	S12	All	All	2.200	-318.127	Neg.	Glass	804396	LAH63	47.92
			S13	All	All	3.871	97.742		Air			45.43
7	54	55	S14	All	All	2.170	-515.815	Neg.	Glass	762401	LAM55	45.15
			S15	All	All	0.700	86.505		Air			44.15
8	54	55	S16	All	All	3.560	44.464	Pos.	Glass	847239	PBH53W	44.47
9	54	55	S17	All	All	2.000	56.665	Neg.	Glass	806410	LAH53	43.55
			S18	All	All	1.380	38.814		Air			41.81
10	54	55	S19	All	All	3.709	47.058	Pos.	Glass	805254	PBH6W	41.84

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TABLE I OPTICAL PRESCRIPTION											
Item	Group	Subgroup	Surface	Focus- ing Position	Zoom Position	Thickness or Separation (mm)	Radius of Curvature (mm)	Optical Power	Material		
									Type	Code	Name
			S20	All	Z1	81.386	70.812		Air		41.17
				All	Z2	26.018					
				All	Z3	3.205					
				All	Z4	0.971					
11	54	56	S21	All	All	5.284	73.576	Pos.	Glass	618634	PHM52
			S22	All	All	1.300	-467.060		Air		41.10
Iris	54	56	S23	All	All	1.320	Flat		Air		40.98
12	54	56	S24	All	All	4.599	64.719	Pos.	Glass	618634	PHM52
			S25	All	All	6.476	280.545		Air		41.99
13	54	56	S26	All	All	2.150	-44.031	Neg	Glass	804466	LAH65
			S27	All	All	0.100	-276.492		Air		44.73
14	54	56	S28	All	All	11.912	104.569	Pos.	Glass	438950	FPL53
			S29	All	All	0.100	-45.864		Air		47.81
15	54	56	S30	All	All	2.200	-125.907	Neg.	Glass	734515	LAL59
			S31	All	All	4.979	63.152		Air		48.06

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TABLE I OPTICAL PRESCRIPTION

Item	Group	Subgroup	Surface	Focus- ing Position	Zoom Position	Thickness or Separation (mm)	Radius of Curvature (mm)	Optical Power	Material			Maximum Aperture Diameter (mm)
									Type	Code	Name	
16	54	56	S32	All	All	2.250	14624.000	Neg.	Glass	720347	BPH8	48.29
17	54	56	S33	All	All	9.972	84.356	Pos.	Glass	603655	PHM53	51.41
			S34	All	All	0.100	-87.065		Air			52.55
18	54	56	S35	All	All	2.550	88.905	Neg.	Glass	521526	SSL5	57.81
19	54	56	S36	All	All	14.288	56.430	Pos	Glass	438950	FPL53	58.48
			S37	All	All	0.100	-114.090		Air			58.93
20	54	56	S38	All	All	6.824	84.019	Pos.	Glass	720460	LAM61	59.41
			S39	All	Z1	0.100	391.268		Air			58.70
				All	Z2	27.592						
				All	Z3	68.959						
				All	Z4	80.521						
Dummy Surface			S40	All	All	0.600	Flat		Air			
21	57		S41	All	All	2.527	1395.656	Pos.	Glass	785257	PBH11W	29.97
			S42	All	All	0.100	-105.898		Air			29.72
22	57		S43	All	All	1.800	-220.862	Neg	Glass	901315	IAH78	29.34

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TABLE I OPTICAL PRESCRIPTION												
Item	Group	Subgroup	Surface	Focus- ing Position	Zoom Position	Thickness or Separation (mm)	Radius of Curvature (mm)	Optical Power	Material			Maximum Aperture Diameter Diameter (mm)
									Type	Code	Name	
			S44	All	All	0.911	72.073°		Air			28.50
23	57		S45	All	All	3.169	128.877	Pos.	Glass	720460	LAM61	28.58
			S46	All	All	53.300	-118.373		Air			28.75
Dummy Surface			S47	All	All	0.000	Flat		Air			
Image Plane			S48	All	All	0.000	Flat		Air			28.90

* Surface profiles of aspheric surfaces S3 and S44 are governed by the following conventional equation:

$$Z = \frac{(\text{CURV})Y^2}{1+(1-(1+K)(\text{CURV})^2Y^2)^{1/2}} + (A)Y^4 + (B)Y^6 + (C)Y^8 + (D)Y^{10} + (E)Y^{12}$$

5 where:

	CURV	=	1/(Radius of Curvature)
	Y	=	Aperture height, measured perpendicular to optical axis
	K, A, B, C, D, E	=	Coefficients
10	Z	=	Position of surface profile for a given Y value, as measured along the optical axis from the pole (i.e. axial vertex) of the surface.

15 The coefficients for the surface S3 of lens 1 are:

	K = -1.5066
	A = 2.0962x10 ⁻⁶
	B = -7.9395x10 ⁻¹⁰
	C = 6.1324x10 ⁻¹³
20	D = -2.8537x10 ⁻¹⁶
	E = 3.1072x10 ⁻²⁰

The coefficients for the surface S44 of lens 22 are:

	K = -2.2286
	A = 2.2871x10 ⁻⁶
25	B = -2.1575x10 ⁻⁹
	C = 9.2167x10 ⁻¹²
	D = -1.2856x10 ⁻¹⁴
	E = 0.0

30 The foregoing footnote * to TABLE 1 includes the equation for calculating the shape of the aspheric surfaces S3 and S44 for the value Z, wherein CURV is the curvature at the pole of the surface, Y is the height or distance from the optical axis of a specific point on the surface of the glass, K is the conic coefficient, and A, B, C, D, and E are the 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th, respectively, order deformation coefficients which are a

well known equation and values for calculating the shape of an aspheric surface.

It should be noted from TABLE 1 that the back focal length (BFL), which is the distance from the last optically refracting surface S46 to the real image surface S48 remains constant in all focus and zoom conditions that the lens system 50 can provide because the auxiliary lens group 57 is in a fixed position and the design of the lens system 50 is predicated on the facts that the real image surface S48 is in a fixed axial position and the image surface is flat.

Also, it should be noted that the zoom lens system 50 is provided with two aperture/field stops at the surfaces S11 and S44 which control the diameter of the aperture through which light rays may pass at each of those points to thereby cause any light rays in the zoom lens system radially beyond those diameters to be stopped.

The four lens groups 52, 53, 55 and 56 are each axially movable independently and their respective movements are coordinated by any convenient means, such as conventional mechanical devices such as cams or the like, to accomplish the desired focusing and zooming functions.

The focus lens groups 52 and 53 move independently of the zoom lens groups 55 and 56. The respective axial movements of the first and second focus lens groups 52 and 53 are coordinated. Although the zoom lens groups 55 and 56 always move at the same time and are coordinated, the zoom variator 56 moves in only one direction (monotonic) while progressing from the minimum focal length to the maximum focal length range but the zoom compensator moves in one direction and then the other direction (non-monotonic) in the minimum to maximum focal length range.

Referring to TABLE 1, for illustrating the scope and versatility of the present invention there are three different Focus Positions F1, F2 and F3 and four different Zoom Positions set forth in the data which, in effect, provides specific data for twelve (3x4=12) different

combinations of positions for the four movable lens groups. For Focus Position F1 the Object Plane O is assumed to be at infinity, for F2 the Object Plane is at an intermediate distance of about 330mm, and for F3 the

5 Object Plane O is at a close distance of about 133mm. At each of these three Focus Positions F1, F2 and F3, the focus lens group 52 and 53 remain in the same respective positions throughout the full ranges of movement of the zoom lens groups 55 and 56 (indicated by "All" in the Zoom

10 Position column of TABLE 1). Similarly, for each of the four Zoom Positions Z1, Z2, Z3 and Z4 set forth in TABLE 1, the zoom lens groups 55 and 56 remain in the same respective positions throughout the full ranges of movement of the focus lens groups 52 and 53 (indicated by

15 "All" in the Focus Position column of TABLE 1). For example, for Focus Position F1 the distance (Thickness or Separation column) to the next surface to the right in Fig. 1 from the Object Plane O is infinity (i.e. focus is at infinity), from S5 is 5.300mm and from S9 is 4.431mm,

20 while the variable distances at S10, S20 and S39 are variable over their full ranges for zooming ("All" in the Zoom Position column) on the object to be photographed that is at infinity focus, without changing the focus lens group positions, i.e. spacings at S5 and S9. Similarly,

25 for Focus Position F2 there is an intermediate focus distance to the object O of 330mm and the spacings at S5 and S9 are 7.260mm and 14.508mm, respectively, while the spacings at S10, S20 and S39 for the zoom elements are variable over their full ranges. The Zoom Positions Z1,

30 Z2, Z3 and Z4 are representative of four positions of the zoom lens groups 55 and 56 with Zoom Positions Z1 and Z4 being the extreme positions and Z2 and Z3 being intermediate positions for all focus lens group positions. The focal length of the lens system 50 varies for

35 different focus distances and Zoom Positions and, for example, at infinity focus and for Zoom Position Z1 the focal length is 15.3mm, for Zoom Position Z2 the focal

length is 23.9mm, for Zoom Position Z3 the focal length is 42.5mm, and for Zoom Position Z4 the focal length is 49.2m. Of course, it will be understood that continuous focusing is available between the extreme Focus Positions F1 and F3, that continuous zooming is available between the extreme Zoom Positions Z1 and Z4, and that any combination of continuous focusing and zooming is available within the described focus and zoom ranges with the lens system 50.

10 In the event that a very close focus or macro operation of the zoom lens system 50 is desired, the zoom range focal length may be reduced to about 20mm to 50mm with continuous focusing which range reduction removes the loss of field of view that would occur with the range of 15 14.5 to 50mm but normally the smaller focal length range will be acceptable because of the very large field of view produced by the lens system 50. In other words, the design of the zoom lens system 50 is for an image height of 14.45mm, which is the so-called Academy 35mm Cine film 20 format that is rarely used at present and, therefore, the reduction in the smaller focal length range will not seriously affect the conventional 35mm Cine film format of about 12mm height. Even a smaller focal length than 20mm might be achieved but there is a possibility of vignetting 25 which, however, may be avoided by reducing the zoom range between Zoom Positions Z1 and Z2 and by accepting a smaller image, which normally is acceptable. For example, one possible close/macro focus of approximately a two inch focus distance, the focusing data in TABLE 1 30 for "Thickness or Separation" would be 59.137 for surface "O" (i.e. the distance to the object plane "O" from dummy surface S1), 34.155 for surface S9 and 8.558 for surface S5.

Referring now to Figs. 2-5, the zoom lens system 50 35 is shown with the focus lens groups and zoom lens groups in various positions and with light ray traces for those positions. Figs. 2 and 4 represent the focus position F1

and zoom position Z1 for which data is set forth above in TABLE 1 with infinity focus and a small focal length. Fig. 3 represents the focus position F3 and zoom position Z1 from TABLE 1 with a close focus and small focal length and is shown juxtaposed to Fig. 2 for comparing the relative positions of the focus and zoom lens groups 52, 53, 55 and 56, as well as the differences and similarities of the light ray traces. Fig. 5 represents the focus position F1 and zoom position Z4 from TABLE 1 with infinity focus and a large focal length and is shown juxtaposed to Fig. 4 for the same comparisons. Specifically, it should be noted from Figs. 2-5 that the pair of light ray traces closest to the axis from object space (at the left in the Figs.) converge to the optical axis at the image space. Fig. 1 represents the focus position F2 and zoom position Z2 from TABLE 1 with intermediate focus distance and focal length.

Normally, the iris of a lens system is located behind (to the right in Figs. 1-5) of the last moving lens group but zoom lens system 50 has the iris S23 located within the second zoom lens group 56 and therefore the iris S23 moves axially therewith. The size of the aperture of iris S23 is adjusted as the zoom lens group 54 moves axially, as described above, with respect to the maximum aperture diameters listed in TABLE 1.

Also, it should be noted that the size of the aperture of iris S23 is not dependent on the positions of the first and second focus lens groups 52 and 53. By this arrangement, the zoom lens system 50 maintains a constant f-number of about 2.2 in the image space through the zoom range and through the focus range.

The optical performance data of zoom lens system 50 is set forth below in TABLE 2 wherein the diffraction based polychromatic modulation transfer function ("MTF") data is stated in percent (%) for five different Field Positions in seven different combinations of the zoom and focus positions set forth in TABLE 1, as representative

examples, as well as the full field distortion data in percent (%) and the full field relative illumination data in percent (%) for those seven combination zoom and focus positions. The Field Positions are set forth in two values, both the actual image height (mm) from the optical axis and the normalized image height, which is the actual image height divided by the maximum image height. The MTF percentages are at the wavelengths and weightings set forth in the righthand column of TABLE 2, namely at 20 cycles/mm, which is a relatively standard measurement of optical performance, wherein the value "20 cycles/mm" means 20 pairs of black and white lines per millimeter on a chart from which the clarity is determined. All of the performance data is given at a temperature of 20°C (68°F), standard atmospheric pressure (760mm Hg), and at F/2.2 full aperture in image space. However, the zoom lens system 50 does provide substantially constant performance, as for example the MTF values, over a temperature range of 0° to 40°C (32° to 104°F) and, if a small degradation in performance (MTF) is acceptable, the operable temperature range can be extended to -10° to 50°C (14° to 122°F) or more.

TABLE 2 PERFORMANCE DATA

FIELD POSITIONS		FOCUS POSITIONS (F) AND ZOOM POSITIONS (Z)							PERFORMANCE DATA DESCRIPTION
Image Height (mm)	Normalized Image Height	F1, Z1	F1, Z2	F1, Z4	F2, Z4	F3, Z4	F3, Z1	F2, Z3	
0 (Axial)	0 (Axial)	82.5 (R) & (T)	76.6 (R) & (T)	79.3 (R) & (T)	82.9 (R) & (T)	58.9 (R) & (T)	81.3 (R) & (T)	80.2 (R) & (T)	Polychromatic diffraction MTF data (%) at 20 cycles/mm at fixed position and flat image surface and at the following wavelengths 643.8, 587.6, 546.1, 486.1 and 455.0 nanometers with respective weightings of 70, 80, 90, 70 and 40, where (R) = radial and (T) = tangential azimuths
5.78	0.4	80.1 (R) 71.5 (T)	80.3 (R) 76.7 (T)	77.7 (R) 70.7 (T)	88.4 (R) 83.1 (T)	59.6 (R) 72.1 (T)	84.4 (R) 77.9 (T)	75.4 (R) 73.0 (T)	
8.67	0.6	77.6 (R) 64.3 (T)	82.4 (R) 66.5 (T)	73.4 (R) 70.8 (T)	85.8 (R) 74.0 (T)	60.4 (R) 71.1 (T)	84.1 (R) 66.3 (T)	70.0 (R) 67.2 (T)	
11.56	0.8	66.3 (R) 43.6 (T)	79.9 (R) 62.9 (T)	71.2 (R) 75.2 (T)	81.0 (R) 72.4 (T)	60.1 (R) 62.8 (T)	69.6 (R) 48.2 (T)	61.9 (R) 63.0 (T)	
14.45 (Full Field)	1 (Full Field)	80.8 (R) 42.9 (T)	78.1 (R) 62.0 (T)	67.5 (R) 49.6 (T)	78.7 (R) 47.9 (T)	63.0 (R) 46.2 (T)	40.1 (T) 55.3 (T)	54.7 (R) 64.6 (T)	
14.45 (Full Field)	1 (Full Field)	-4.5	-0.7	+1.4	+1.3	+1.2	-5.0	+0.9	Full Field Distortion (%)
14.45 (Full Field)	1 (Full Field)	18.5	49.6	43.7	43.8	43.9	19.7	45.2	Full Field Relative Illumination (%)

While it would appear that the MTF performance falls-off at full field and somewhat less at 0.8 normalized image height, this is partly attributable to optical field aberrations including, but not limited to, field curvature, astigmatism and lateral color. Since the zoom lens system 50 has been designed to cover the rather large Academy 35mm Cine image field which is rarely used, in practice these fall-offs are not actually important in real situations where a maximum normalized field of about 0.8 is quite adequate. Further, the apparent MTF performance fall-off at the 0 field position, i.e. on the optical axis, for focus position F3 and zoom position Z4 (a long focal length and a close focus distance of about 133mm), is not of particular concern because objects at this close of a focus distance will appear to be extremely large which do not require as high a performance MTF as required for objects at greater object space distances. Moreover, the important factor in determining the image quality sharpness characteristics of lenses for Cine use is their contrast capability at all zoom and focus positions. In general, MTF percent modulation (i.e. contrast) values of 80% or more are considered exceptional and values between 50% and 80% are considered very good. From TABLE 2 it can be observed that almost every MTF percent exceeds 50%, except in full field where they all exceed 40%, and that most of the MTF values exceed 70%.

The so-called "breathing" problem of zoom lenses wherein the image changes size from short to long focus is virtually absent in zoom lens system 50. The breathing values due to focusing in percent (%) change of image size are given in TABLE 3 below where it can be observed that the values are relatively small for zoom position Z1 and Z2 (from TABLE 1) as compared to zoom positions Z3 and Z4. Since the depths of field for zoom positions Z1 and Z2 are relatively large as compared to zoom positions Z3 and Z4 the breathing values should be small so that the breathing effect is not noticeable. Of course, the breathing values

in zoom positions Z3 and Z4 should ideally be small but if they are not, which is the case here, these effects are not particularly noticeable due to the small depth of field.

5

TABLE 3 BREATHING (%)

	F1	F2	F3
Z1	0	-2.7	-3.9
Z2	0	-4.3	-7.9
Z3	0	-7.0	-13.4
Z4	0	-8.0	-15.3

- 10 The values in TABLE 3 are as measured at a wavelength of 546.1 nanometers based on the difference between the full field principal ray angle (in degrees) at focus position F1 and focus positions F2 and F3, where the full field principal rays at all focus positions produce an image height of 14.45 mm at the image plane.

- 15 While the present invention has been described in connection with the zoom lens system 50 that is of the appropriate dimensions for use on a 35mm Cine motion picture film camera, the dimensions of this zoom lens system may be appropriately scaled up or down for use with various film image formats including, but not limited to, 16mm, Super 16mm, 35mm, 65mm, IMAX®, OMNIMAX® and the like, and various video formats including high definition television (HDTV), advanced television (ATV) and general digital television.

- 25 Among the many advantages of the zoom lens system 50 of this invention is that of providing the wide range of focal lengths that are most commonly used in cine which eliminates the need for at least seven fixed focal length objective lenses for obtaining the proper versatility for high quality cinematography, whereby the use of this zoom

lens system will result in greater flexibility and less cost. Further, the unique design of the zoom lens system 50 creates a smaller lens than most high performance zoom lens systems of comparable range of focal lengths and only 5 slightly larger than the largest fixed focal length objective lens in the same range. Still further, the unique lens design of the zoom lens system 50 virtually eliminates the so-called "breathing" problem wherein the image changes size when the focus is changed from short to 10 long focus distances. Other features and advantages of the zoom lens system 50 will appear to those skilled in the art from the foregoing description and the accompanying drawings.



~~Claims~~

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A high performance zoom lens system comprised of multiple focus lens groups, multiple zoom lens groups and an auxiliary lens group aligned on a common optical axis and arranged to collect radiation emanating from an object space and deliver said radiation to an axially stationary image space as a real image, said multiple focus lens groups comprising a first focus lens group of negative optical power and a second focus lens group of positive optical power, said multiple zoom lens groups comprising a first zoom lens group of negative optical power and a second zoom lens group of positive optical power, each of said first and second focus lens groups and said first and second zoom lens groups being axially movable, and said auxiliary lens group being axially stationary.
2. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 1, wherein said first and second focus lens groups have a combined negative optical power.
3. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 1, wherein said first zoom lens group is axially moved in a non-monotonic manner first in one axial direction and then in the other axial direction over a full range of focal lengths between a minimum focal length and a maximum focal length of the zoom lens system.
4. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 1, wherein said first focus lens group includes a non-spherical, non-plano, optically refractive surface.
5. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 1 or 4, wherein said auxiliary lens group includes a non-spherical, non-plano, optically refractive surface.
6. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 5, wherein said zoom lens system has all remaining

optically refractive surfaces that are substantially at least one of either spherical or plano.

7. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 1, wherein said auxiliary lens group is of weak optical power and is the only auxiliary lens group.

8. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 7, wherein said auxiliary lens group has a positive optical power.

9. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 1, wherein said second zoom lens group includes an adjustable iris.

10. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 1, wherein a fixed optical field stop is provided in said first zoom lens group.

11. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 9, wherein a fixed optical field stop is provided in said first zoom lens group.

12. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 1, 9, 10 or 11, wherein a fixed optical field stop is provided in said auxiliary lens group.

13. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 1, wherein said first and second focus lens groups include lens elements for minimizing changes in a size of objects appearing in the real image during changes in focus distance from close to distant objects by axial movement of said first and second focus lens groups.

14. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 1, wherein said first focus lens group is comprised of at

least two optically refractive lens elements and includes at least one aspheric lens surface.

15. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 1 or 14, wherein said second focus lens group is comprised of at least two optically refractive lens elements.

16. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 1, wherein said first zoom lens group is comprised of six optically refractive lens elements of which two pair of doublet lens elements are included.

17. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 1 or 16, wherein said second zoom lens group is comprised of ten optically refractive lens elements of which two pair of doublet lens elements are included.

18. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 1, 14 or 16 wherein said auxiliary lens group is comprised of at least three optically refractive lens elements and includes at least one aspheric lens surface.

19. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 1, wherein the zoom lens system includes a lens element having an aspheric lens surface with a profile governed by the following equation and coefficients;

$$Z = \frac{(CURV)Y^2}{1 + (1 - (1 + K)(CURV)^2 Y^2)^{1/2}} + (A)Y^4 + (B)Y^6 + (C)Y^8 + (D)Y^{10} + (E)Y^{12}$$

where:

25 CURV = 1/(Radius of Curvature)
 Y = Aperture height, measured perpendicular to optical axis
 K, A, B, C, D, E = Coefficients
 Z = Position of surface profile for a
 30 given Y value, as measured along the

optical axis from the pole (i.e. axial vertex) of the surface; and

the coefficients for said aspheric lens surface are:

$$K = -1.5066$$

$$A = 2.0962 \times 10^{-6}$$

$$B = -7.9395 \times 10^{-10}$$

$$C = 6.1324 \times 10^{-13}$$

$$D = -2.8537 \times 10^{-16}$$

$$E = 3.1072 \times 10^{-20}$$

20. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 19, wherein said aspheric lens surface is included in said first focus lens group.

21. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 1, wherein the zoom lens system includes a lens element having an aspheric lens surface with a profile governed by the following equation and coefficients;

$$Z = \frac{(CURV)Y^2}{1 + (1 - (1 + K)(CURV)^2 Y^2)^{1/2}} + (A)Y^4 + (B)Y^6 + (C)Y^8 + (D)Y^{10} + (E)Y^{12}$$

where:

CURV = 1/(Radius of Curvature)

Y = Aperture height, measured perpendicular to optical axis

K, A, B, C, D, E = Coefficients

Z = Position of surface profile for a given Y value, as measured along the optical axis from the pole (i.e. axial vertex) of the surface; and

the coefficients for said aspheric lens surface are:

$$K = -2.2286$$

$$A = 2.2871 \times 10^{-6}$$

$$B = -2.1575 \times 10^{-9}$$

$$C = 9.2167 \times 10^{-12}$$

$$D = -1.2856 \times 10^{-14}$$

$$E = 0.0$$

22. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 21, wherein said aspheric lens surface is included in said auxiliary lens group.

5 23. A high performance zoom lens system comprised of multiple focus lens groups, multiple zoom lens groups and a single auxiliary lens group aligned on a common optical axis, said multiple focus lens groups having a first focus lens group of negative optical power and a second focus
10 lens group of positive optical power, each said focus lens group being separately axially moveable along the optical axis, said multiple zoom lens groups comprising a first zoom lens group and a second zoom lens group, said first zoom lens group being axially movable in a non-monotonic
15 manner over a full range between minimum and maximum focal lengths, said second zoom lens group being axially movable in a monotonic manner over the full range between minimum and maximum focal lengths, and said auxiliary lens group being axially stationary.

20 24. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 23, wherein said first and second focus lens groups have a combined negative optical power.

25 25. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 23, wherein said first focus lens group includes a non-spherical, non-plano, optically refractive surface.

26. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 23 or 25, wherein said auxiliary lens group includes a non-spherical, non-plano, optically refractive surface.

30 27. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 23, wherein said auxiliary lens group is of weak optical power and is the only auxiliary lens group.

28. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 27, wherein said auxiliary lens group has a positive optical power.

29. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 5 23, wherein said second zoom lens group includes an adjustable iris.

30. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 23, wherein said first and second focus lens groups include lens elements for minimizing changes in a size of 10 objects appearing in the real image during changes in focus distance from close to distant objects by axial movement of said first and second focus lens groups.

31. A high performance zoom lens system comprised of multiple focus lens groups, multiple zoom lens groups and 15 a single auxiliary lens group aligned on a common optical axis and arranged to collect radiation emanating from an object space and deliver said radiation to an axially stationary image space, as a real image, said multiple focus lens groups comprising first and second focus lens 20 groups, said first focus lens group of negative optical power and being axially movable with at least one non-spherical, non-plano, optically refractive surface, said second focus lens group of positive optical power and being axially movable, said multiple zoom lens groups 25 comprising first and second zoom lens groups, said first zoom lens group of negative optical power and being axially movable, said second zoom lens group of positive optical power and being axially movable, said second zoom lens group containing an adjustable optical stop, said 30 single auxiliary lens group being of positive optical power and axially stationary with at least one non-spherical, non-plano optically refractive surface, said zoom lens system having remaining optically refractive surfaces that are substantially at least one of either

spherical or plano, and said zoom lens system via axial positioning of said multiple focus lens groups and said multiple zoom lens groups providing a high level of optical performance through focusing and zooming ranges at the real image.

32. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 31, wherein each said non-spherical, non-plano optically refractive surface is aspherical.

33. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 31 or 32, wherein said multiple focus lens group has a combined negative optical power.

34. A high performance zoom lens system comprised of glass lens elements 1 through 23 aligned on a common optical axis and arranged to collect radiation emanating from an object space and deliver said radiation to an axially stationary image space as a real image;

said lens elements forming a multiple focus lens group 51 comprising a first focus lens group 52, and a second focal lens group 53, a multiple zoom lens group 54 comprising a first zoom lens group 55 and a second zoom lens group 56, and an auxiliary lens group 57, said first and second focus lens groups and said first and second zoom lens groups each being axially movable;

said first focus lens group comprising lens elements 1 and 2, said second focus lens group comprising lens elements 3 and 4, said first zoom lens group comprising lens elements 5 through 10, said second focus lens group comprising lens elements 11 through 20, and said auxiliary focus lens group comprising lens elements 21, 22 and 23; and

wherein lens element surfaces, dummy surfaces, an iris, an object plane and an image plane are identified as O and S1 through S48, said lens element surfaces S3 and S44 are aspheric, and said lens elements, lens element

surfaces, dummy surfaces, iris, object plane and image plane have the following relationships and characteristics:



Item	Group	Subgroup	Surface	Thickness or Separation (mm)	Radius of Curvature (mm)	Glass Code
Object Plane			0	Variable	Flat	
Dummy Surface			S1	1.000	Flat	
1	51	52	S2	5.000	218.818	438950
			S3	23.534	38.506	
2	51	52	S4	3.800	222.116	618634
			S5	Variable	43.328	
3	51	53	S6	15.592	51.336	805254
			S7	0.100	77.033	
4	51	53	S8	7.697	43.190	438950
			S9	Variable	55.573	
Dummy Surface			S10	Variable	Flat	
5	54	55	S11	5.181	129.546	636354
6	54	55	S12	2.200	-318.127	804396
			S13	3.871	97.742	
7	54	55	S14	2.170	-515.815	762401
			S15	0.700	86.505	

Item	Group	Subgroup	Surface	Thickness or Separation (mm)	Radius of Curvature (mm)	Glass Code
8	54	55	S16	3.560	44.464	847239
9	54	55	S17	2.000	56.665	806410
			S18	1.380	38.814	
10	54	55	S19	3.799	47.058	805254
			S20	Variable	70.812	
11	54	56	S21	5.284	73.576	618634
			S22	1.300	-467.060	
Iris	54	56	S23	1.320	Flat	
12	54	56	S24	4.599	64.719	618634
			S25	6.476	280.545	
13	54	56	S26	2.150	-44.031	804466
			S27	0.100	-276.492	
14	54	56	S28	11.912	104.569	438950
			S29	0.100	-45.864	
15	54	56	S30	2.200	-125.907	734515
			S31	4.979	63.152	
16	54	56	S32	2.250	14624.000	720347
17	54	56	S33	9.972	84.356	603655

24 07 00 10405

Item	Group	Subgroup	Surface	Thickness or Separation (mm)	Radius of Curvature (mm)	Glass Code
			S34	0.100	-87.065	
18	54	56	S35	2.550	88.905	521526
19	54	56	S36	14.288	56.430	438950
			S37	0.100	-114.090	
20	54	56	S38	6.824	84.019	720460
			S39	Variable	391.268	
Dummy Surface			S40	0.600	Flat	
21	57		S41	2.527	1395.656	785257
			S42	0.100	-105.898	
22	57		S43	1.800	-220.862	901315
			S44	0.911	72.073	
23	57		S45	3.169	128.877	720460
			S46	53.300	-118.373	
Dummy Surface			S47	0.000	Flat	
Image Plane			S48	0.000	Flat	

35. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 34, wherein the maximum aperture diameters (mm) at each surface S1 through S48, excluding said dummy surfaces, are as follows; 124.80 at S2, 90.57 at S3, 90.24 at S4, 73.22 at S5, 73.95 at S6, 68.33 at S7, 64.89 at S8, 62.41 at S9, 48.90 at S11, 47.92 at S12, 45.43 at S13, 45.15 at S14, 44.15 at S15, 44.47 at S16, 43.55 at S17, 41.81 at S18, 41.84 at S19, 41.17 at S20, 41.12 at S21, 41.10 at S22, 40.98 at S23, 42.20 at S24, 41.99 at S25, 41.96 at S26, 44.73 at S27, 47.12 at S28, 47.81 at S29, 47.23 at S30, 48.06 at S31, 48.29 at S32, 51.41 at S33, 52.55 at S34, 57.81 at S35, 58.48 at S36, 58.93 at S37, 59.41 at S38, 58.70 at S39, 29.97 at S41, 29.72 at S42, 29.34 at S43, 28.50 at S44, 28.58 at S45, 28.75 at S46, 28.90 at S48.

36. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 34, wherein said aspheric lens surface S3 has a profile governed by the following equation and coefficients;

$$Z = \frac{(\text{CURV})Y^2}{1 + (1 - (1 + K)(\text{CURV})^2 Y^2)^{1/2}} + (A)Y^4 + (B)Y^6 + (C)Y^8 + (D)Y^{10} + (E)Y^{12}$$

where:

CURV = 1/(Radius of Curvature)

Y = Aperture height, measured perpendicular to optical axis

K, A, B, C, D, E = Coefficients

Z = Position of surface profile for a given Y value, as measured along the optical axis from the pole (i.e. axial vertex) of the surface; and

the coefficients for said aspheric lens surface are:

K = -1.5066

A = 2.0962×10^{-6}

B = -7.9395×10^{-10}

C = 6.1324×10^{-13}

D = -2.8537×10^{-16}

$$E = 3.1072 \times 10^{-20}$$

37. The high performance zoom lens system of claim 34 or 36, wherein said aspheric lens surface S44 has a profile governed by the following equation and 5 coefficients;

$$Z = \frac{(\text{CURV})Y^2}{1 + (1 - (1 + K)(\text{CURV})^2 Y^2)^{1/2}} + (A)Y^4 + (B)Y^6 + (C)Y^8 + (D)Y^{10} + (E)Y^{12}$$

where:

10 CURV = 1/(Radius of Curvature)
 Y = Aperture height, measured perpendicular to optical axis
 K, A, B, C, D, E = Coefficients
 Z = Position of surface profile for a given Y value, as measured along the optical axis from the pole (i.e. axial vertex) of the surface; and

15 the coefficients for said aspheric lens surface are:

20 K = -2.2286
 A = 2.2871X10⁻⁶
 B = -2.1575X10⁻⁹
 C = 9.2167X10⁻¹²
 D = -1.2856X10⁻¹⁴
 E = 0.0

38. A high performance zoom lens system, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

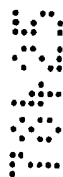
Dated 20 July, 1998

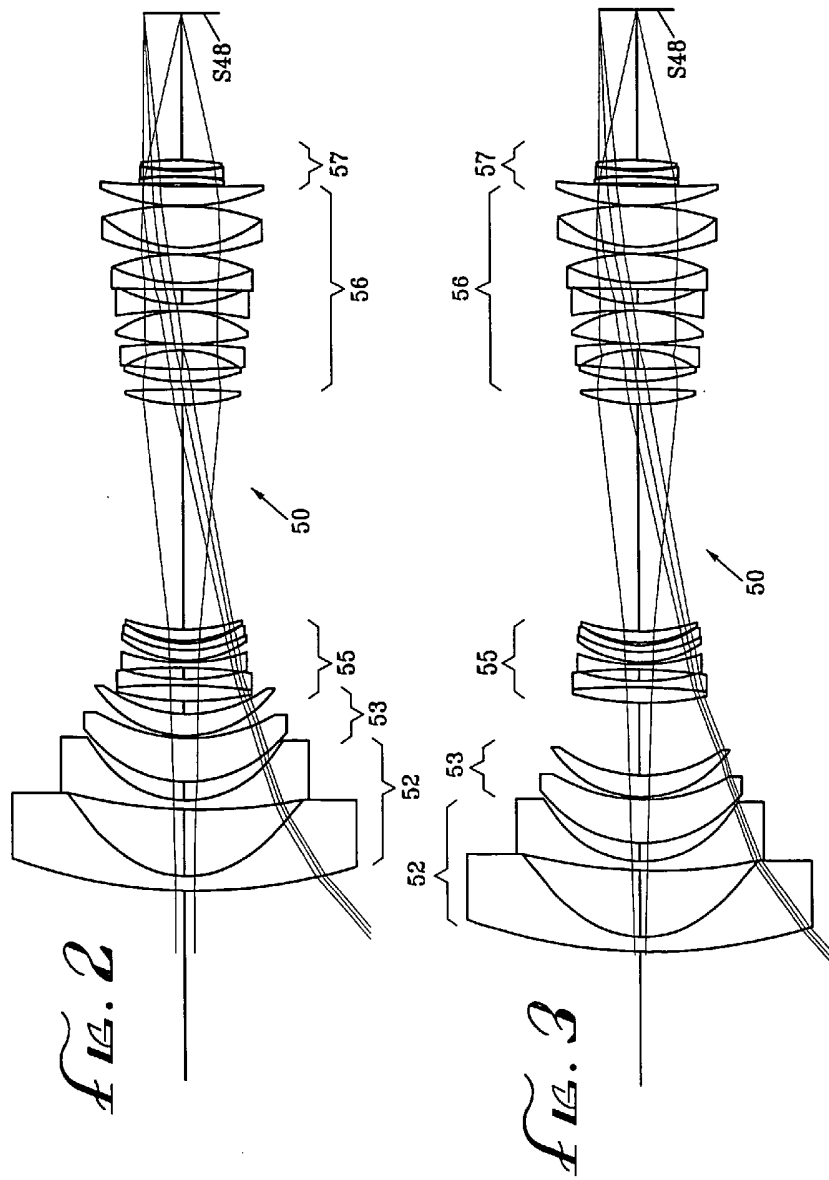
Panavision, Inc.

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Patent Attorneys for the Applicant/Nominated Person

SPRUSON & FERGUSON





US 9,998,702 B2

FIG. 4

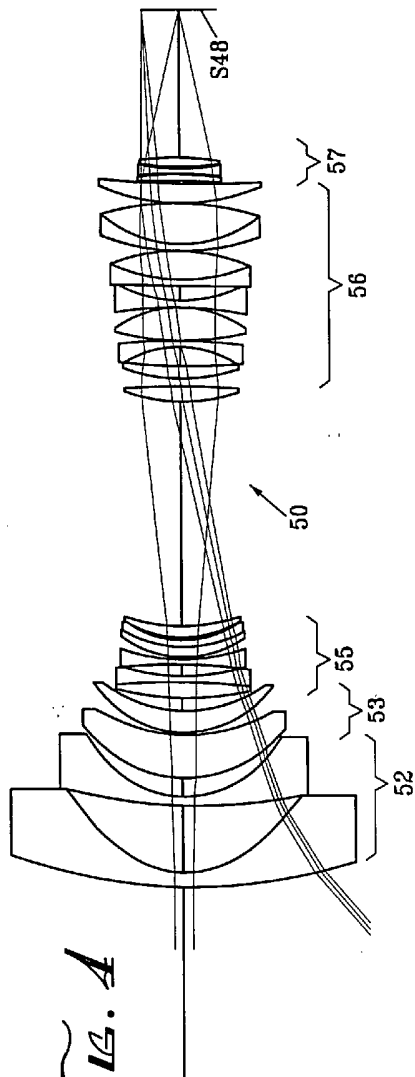


FIG. 5

