

CHIP RECOGNITION SYSTEM

BACKGROUND

Technical Field

[0001]

The present invention relates to a chip recognition system that recognizes stacked chips.

Related Art

[0002]

In games such as a baccarat game, betting is done by stacking a plurality of chips. Hence, there is a need to correctly recognize the stacked chips.

SUMMARY

[0004]

Embodiments of the present invention seek to provide a chip recognition system capable of accurately recognizing stacked chips.

An aspect of the present invention provides a chip recognition system that recognizes a chip on a gaming table in an amusement place having the gaming table. The chip recognition system comprises a game recording apparatus that records, as an image, a state of chips stacked on the gaming table, using a camera; an image analysis apparatus that performs an image analysis on the recorded image of the state of chips; a plurality of chip determination apparatuses comprising at least a first apparatus that uses artificial intelligence to determine a number of the chips stacked,

using an image analysis result obtained by the image analysis apparatus, wherein the determination of the number of the chips stacked is made separately by different respective ones of the plurality of chip determination apparatuses, thereby providing a plurality of respective results of the determination of the number of the chips stacked; and a second apparatus that is configured to compare the plurality of respective results to one another; based on the comparison, identify that the respective results of the determination of the number of the chips differ between different ones of the plurality of chip determination apparatuses; and in response to the identification, determine which one of the different determination results to select as being correct or otherwise decide a correct number of the chips stacked.

Another aspect of the present invention provides a chip recognition system that recognizes a chip on a gaming table in an amusement place having the gaming table. The chip recognition system comprises a game recording apparatus that records, as an image, a state of chips stacked on the gaming table, using a camera; an image analysis apparatus that performs an image analysis on the recorded image of the state of chips; a plurality of chip determination apparatuses comprising at least a first apparatus that uses artificial intelligence to determine a number and a type of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result obtained by the image analysis apparatus, wherein the determination of the number and the type of the chips stacked is made separately by different respective ones of the plurality of chip determination apparatuses,

thereby providing a plurality of respective results of the determination of the number and the type of the chips stacked; and a second apparatus that is configured to compare the plurality of respective results to one another; based on the comparison, identify that the respective results of the determination of the number and the type of the chips differ between different ones of the plurality of chip determination apparatuses; and in response to the identification, determine which one of the different determination results to select as being correct or otherwise decide a correct number or type of the chips stacked.

Another aspect of the present invention provides a chip recognition system that recognizes a chip on a gaming table in an amusement place having the gaming table. The chip recognition system comprises a game recording apparatus that records, as an image, a state of chips stacked on the gaming table, using a camera; an image analysis apparatus that performs an image analysis on the recorded image of the state of chips; a chip determination apparatus comprising an artificial intelligence apparatus that determines a number of chips bet by a player, using an image analysis result obtained by the image analysis apparatus; a physical measurement determination apparatus that determines a number of the chips bet by the player, by a physical measurement method different from a method used by the artificial intelligence apparatus; and a management and control apparatus that controls the image analysis apparatus, the chip determination apparatus, and the physical measurement determination apparatus,

wherein the management and control apparatus further has a function of comparing the numbers of chips determined by the chip determination apparatus and the physical measurement determination apparatus to thereby identify that the compared numbers differ; and in response to the identification, outputting and displaying "undetermined" as a determination result.

Another aspect of the present invention provides a chip recognition system that recognizes a chip on a gaming table in an amusement place having the gaming table. The chip recognition system comprises a plurality of cameras that obtain images of a chip bet by a player from different positions or different angles; a game recording apparatus that records, as images, a state of chips stacked on the gaming table, using the plurality of cameras; an image analysis apparatus that performs an image analysis on the recorded images of the state of chips; a plurality of chip determination apparatuses comprising at least a first apparatus that determines a number of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result obtained by the image analysis apparatus, wherein the determination of the number of the chips stacked is made separately by different respective ones of the plurality of chip determination apparatuses, thereby providing a plurality of respective results of the determination of the number of the chips stacked; and a management and control apparatus that controls the image analysis apparatus and the plurality of chip determination apparatuses. The management and control apparatus further has a second apparatus configured to compare the plurality of

respective results to one another; based on the comparison, identify that the results of the determination of the number of chips differ between different ones of the plurality of chip determination apparatuses; and in response to the identification, analyze the images in the game recording apparatus to determine whether the difference in the results of the determination is caused by a stacking state of the chips stacked on the gaming table; and decide a correct number of the chips stacked, based on the results of the determination obtained by the respective plurality of chip determination apparatuses and based on the determination of whether the different is caused by the stacking state.

[0005]

According to one embodiment, provided is a chip recognition system that recognizes a chip on a gaming table in an amusement place having the gaming table, the chip recognition system comprising: a game recording apparatus that records, as an image, a state of chips stacked on the gaming table, using a camera; an image analysis apparatus that performs an image analysis on the recorded image of the state of chips; a plurality

of chip determination apparatuses comprising at least a first artificial intelligence apparatus that determines a number of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result obtained by the image analysis apparatus; and a second artificial intelligence apparatus that decides a correct number of the chips stacked, when the plurality of chip determination apparatuses obtain different determination results for the number of the chips stacked.

[0006]

By providing the second artificial intelligence apparatus, even if the plurality of chip determination apparatuses provide different determination results for the number of chips, the correct number of chips can be accurately decided.

[0007]

The plurality of chip determination apparatuses may comprise at least: the first artificial intelligence apparatus that determines a number of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result for a first image, the image analysis result being obtained by the image analysis apparatus; and a third artificial intelligence apparatus that determines a number of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result for a second image, the image analysis result being obtained by the image analysis apparatus and the second image being different from the first image.

[0008]

Alternatively, the plurality of chip determination

apparatuses may comprise at least: the first artificial intelligence apparatus that determines a number of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result obtained by the image analysis apparatus; and a physical measurement determination
5 apparatus that determines a number of the chips stacked, by a physical measurement method different from a method used by the first artificial intelligence apparatus.

[0009]

Additionally, the plurality of chip determination
10 apparatuses may comprise at least: the first artificial intelligence apparatus that determines a number of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result for a first image, the image analysis result being obtained by the image analysis apparatus; a third artificial intelligence apparatus that
15 determines a number of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result for a second image, the image analysis result being obtained by the image analysis apparatus and the second image being different from the first image; and a physical measurement determination apparatus that determines a number
20 of the chips stacked, by a physical measurement method different from methods used by the first and third artificial intelligence apparatuses.

[0010]

The physical measurement determination apparatus may
25 determine a number of the chips stacked, using a measurement result that uses trigonometry.

[0011]

Preferably, the second artificial intelligence apparatus decides a correct number of the chips stacked, using at least one of: a position of the camera used by the game recording apparatus; a number of pixels obtained from the camera; a focal
5 position of the image; and past results obtained by the plurality of chip determination apparatuses.

[0012]

According to another embodiment, provided is a chip recognition system that recognizes a chip on a gaming table in
10 an amusement place having the gaming table, the chip recognition system comprising: a game recording apparatus that records, as an image, a state of chips stacked on the gaming table, using a camera; an image analysis apparatus that performs an image analysis on the recorded image of the state of chips; a plurality
15 of chip determination apparatuses comprising at least a first artificial intelligence apparatus that determines a number and a type of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result obtained by the image analysis apparatus; and a second artificial intelligence apparatus that decides a correct number
20 or a type of the chips stacked, when the plurality of chip determination apparatuses obtain different determination results for the number or the type of the chips stacked.

[0013]

By providing the second artificial intelligence
25 apparatus, even if the plurality of chip determination apparatuses provide different determination results for the number or type of chips, the correct number of chips and the

correct type of chips can be accurately decided.

[0014]

The plurality of chip determination apparatuses may comprise at least: the first artificial intelligence apparatus
5 that determines a number and a type of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result for a first image, the image analysis result being obtained by the image analysis apparatus; and a third artificial intelligence apparatus that determines a number and a type of the chips stacked, using an image analysis
10 result for a second image, the image analysis result being obtained by the image analysis apparatus and the second image being different from the first image.

[0015]

The plurality of chip determination apparatuses may
15 comprise at least: the first artificial intelligence apparatus that determines a number and a type of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result obtained by the image analysis apparatus; and a physical measurement determination apparatus that determines a number of the chips stacked, by a physical
20 measurement method different from a method used by the first artificial intelligence apparatus.

[0016]

The plurality of chip determination apparatuses may comprise at least: the first artificial intelligence apparatus
25 that determines a number and a type of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result for a first image, the image analysis result being obtained by the image analysis apparatus; a third

artificial intelligence apparatus that determines a number and a type of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result for a second image, the image analysis result being obtained by the image analysis apparatus and the second image being different
5 from the first image; and a physical measurement determination apparatus that determines a number of the chips stacked, by a physical measurement method different from methods used by the first and third artificial intelligence apparatuses.

[0017]

10 The physical measurement determination apparatus may determine a number of the chips stacked, using a measurement result that uses trigonometry.

[0018]

Preferably, the second artificial intelligence apparatus
15 decides a correct number or a type of the chips stacked, using at least one of: a position of the camera used by the game recording apparatus; a number of pixels obtained from the camera; a focal position of the image; and past results obtained by the plurality of chip determination apparatuses.

20 [0019]

Preferably, the image analysis apparatus is configured such that even if a part of a plurality of stacked chips or a whole of a single chip among the plurality of stacked chips is hidden due to a blind spot of the camera, the image analysis
25 apparatus can obtain information about a type, a number, and a position of the chips.

[0020]

According to another embodiment, provided is a chip recognition system that recognizes a chip on a gaming table in an amusement place having the gaming table, the chip recognition system comprising: a game recording apparatus that records, as
5 an image, a state of chips stacked on the gaming table, using a camera; an image analysis apparatus that performs an image analysis on the recorded image of the state of chips; a chip determination apparatus comprising an artificial intelligence apparatus that determines a number of chips bet by a player,
10 using an image analysis result obtained by the image analysis apparatus; a physical measurement determination apparatus that determines a number of the chips bet by the player, by a physical measurement method different from a method used by the artificial intelligence apparatus; and a management and control
15 apparatus that controls the image analysis apparatus, the chip determination apparatus, and the physical measurement determination apparatus, wherein the management and control apparatus further has a function of outputting and displaying "undetermined" as a determination result when a determination
20 result for the number of chips obtained from the chip determination apparatus differs from a determination result for the number of chips obtained from the physical measurement determination apparatus.

[0021]

25 The physical measurement determination apparatus may determine a number of the chips using a measurement result that uses trigonometry.

[0022]

According to another embodiment, provided is a chip recognition system that recognizes a chip on a gaming table in an amusement place having the gaming table, the chip recognition system comprising: a plurality of cameras that obtain images of a chip bet by a player from different positions or different angles; a game recording apparatus that records, as images, a state of chips stacked on the gaming table, using the plurality of cameras; an image analysis apparatus that performs an image analysis on the recorded images of the state of chips; a plurality of chip determination apparatuses comprising at least a first artificial intelligence apparatus that determines a number of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result obtained by the image analysis apparatus; and a management and control apparatus that controls the image analysis apparatus and the plurality of chip determination apparatuses, wherein the management and control apparatus further has a second artificial intelligence apparatus function of analyzing the images in the game recording apparatus when the plurality of chip determination apparatuses obtain different determination results for the number of the chips stacked, to determine whether the difference in determination result is caused by a stacking state of the chips stacked on the gaming table, and decides a correct number of the chips stacked, based on the determination results obtained by the respective plurality of chip determination apparatuses.

[0023]

Chips can be accurately recognized.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0024]

5 FIG. 1 is a diagram schematically showing an amusement place;

 FIG. 2 is a diagram showing the progress of a baccarat game;

 FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing a schematic
10 configuration of a chip recognition system;

 FIG. 4 is a diagram describing a method of determining the number of chips using trigonometry;

 FIG. 5 is a diagram describing a method of determining the number of chips using trigonometry; and

15 FIG. 6 is a flowchart showing a technique for recognizing chips.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0025]

20 An embodiment according to the present invention will be specifically described below with reference to the drawings.

[0026]

 First, a game that is played in an amusement place having a gaming table 10 will be described. Although the present
25 embodiment shows an example in which the gaming table 10 is a baccarat table and a baccarat game is played, the present invention is also applicable to other amusement places or other

games.

[0027]

FIG. 1 is a diagram schematically showing an amusement place. As shown in the drawing, in the amusement place there are disposed a substantially semicircular gaming table 10 and chairs 11 which are arranged along the arc side of the gaming table 10 so as to face a dealer D. The number of the chairs 11 is any. In the example of Fig. 1, six chairs 11 are provided (they are called chairs 11a to 11f in order from the right side on the paper of the gaming table 10, and are collectively called chairs 11). In addition, betting areas 12 are provided on the gaming table 10 for the respective chairs 11 (they are called betting areas 12a to 12f in order from the right side on the paper of the gaming table 10, and are collectively called betting areas 12). Namely, the six betting areas 12a to 12f are arranged in an arc-like manner.

[0028]

Then, customers (players) C sit in the respective chairs 11a to 11f. Each customer (player) C bets on a Player win, a Banker win, or a Tie as the winning or losing outcome of the baccarat game (this is hereinafter referred to as "bet") by stacking chips W in a betting area 12 provided in front of a chair 11 in which the customer (player) C sits.

[0029]

There may be only one type of chips W to bet or there may be a plurality of types of chips W to bet. In addition, the number of chips W to bet may be arbitrarily decided by the

customers (players) C. The present embodiment is to recognize the number (furthermore, the type) of stacked chips W.

[0030]

The dealer D calls "No more bets" at the right time to
5 end betting by the customers (players) C and, for example, moves
his/her hand in a crosswise direction. Then, the dealer D draws
cards one by one from a card shooter apparatus S onto the gaming
table 10. As shown in FIG. 2, the first card is a Player's hand,
the second card is a Banker's hand, the third card is a Player's
10 hand, and the fourth card is a Banker's hand (the drawing of
the first to fourth cards is hereinafter referred to as
"dealing").

[0031]

Note that since all cards are drawn face down from the
15 card shooter apparatus S, neither the dealer D nor customers
(players) C can grasp ranks (numbers) or suits (hearts, diamonds,
spades, or clubs).

[0032]

After the fourth card is drawn, a customer (player) C who
20 has bet on the Player (if there are a plurality of customers
C who have bet on the Player, a customer C with the highest bet,
and if there is no customer C who has bet on the Player, the
dealer D) turns over the face-down first and third cards face
up. Likewise, a customer (player) C who has bet on the Banker
25 (if there are a plurality of customers C who have bet on the
Banker, a customer C with the highest bet, and if there is no
customer C who has bet on the Banker, the dealer D) turns over

the second and fourth cards face up (in general, the turning over of a face-down card face up is called "squeezing").

[0033]

Then, based on the ranks (numbers) of the first to fourth
5 cards and the detailed rules of the baccarat game, the dealer
D draws the fifth card and further the sixth card, and each of
these cards becomes a Player's or Banker's hand. In the same
manner as above, a customer (player) C who has bet on the Player
squeezes a card that is the Player's hand, and a customer
10 (player) C who has bet on the Banker squeezes a card that is
the Banker's hand.

[0034]

A period of time before winning and losing outcomes are
found out by squeezing the fifth and sixth cards after drawing
15 the first to fourth cards is a thrilling time for the customers
(players) C.

[0035]

Furthermore, depending on the ranks (numbers) of cards,
winning and losing may be decided by the first to fourth cards,
20 or winning and losing may be finally decided by the fifth card
or further by the sixth card. Based on the ranks (numbers) of
the squeezed cards, the dealer D grasps that winning and losing
are decided and grasps winning and losing outcomes, and performs
a task such as pressing a winning and losing outcome display
25 button on the card shooter apparatus S to display the winning
and losing outcomes on a monitor to show the customers (players)
C the winning and losing outcomes.

[0036]

In addition, at the same time, a winning and losing determiner included in the card shooter apparatus S determines the winning and losing outcomes of the game. If, despite the
5 fact that winning and losing have been decided, the dealer D further attempts to draw a card without displaying the winning and losing outcomes, an error occurs. The card shooter apparatus S detects the error and outputs an error signal. Finally, during a period during which the winning and losing
10 outcomes are displayed, the dealer D calculates bets made by the customers (players) C, and makes payouts to winning customers (players) C and collects bets from losing customers (players) C. After the completion of the calculation, the display of the winning and losing outcomes is terminated, and
15 betting for the next game starts.

[0037]

Note that the flow of the above-described baccarat game is widely done in general casinos, and the card shooter apparatus S is an existing card shooter apparatus that is
20 configured to read a card to be drawn while being structured such that a card is drawn out by a hand of the dealer D, and that further includes an outcome display button and an outcome display module and has a function of making a winning and losing determination and displaying winning and losing outcomes. As
25 described above, the card shooter apparatus S, a monitor, etc., are disposed for each of a plurality of gaming tables 10 arranged on a general casino floor, and cards to be used are supplied

in units of packages or sets or further in units of cartons on each gaming table 10 or in a cabinet 210 below the gaming table 10 and utilized.

[0038]

5 The present embodiment relates to a chip recognition system that recognizes chips W that are stacked in the betting areas 12 by the customers (players) C, and more specifically to a chip recognition system that recognizes the number and/or type of chips W.

10 [0039]

 The chip recognition system includes a single or a plurality of (two in the example of FIG. 1) cameras 1a and 1b. The camera 1a is disposed on the right side on the paper of the gaming table 10 and shoots the betting areas 12. On the other
15 hand, the camera 1b is disposed on the left side on the paper of the gaming table 10 and shoots the betting areas 12. Note that the disposition positions of the cameras 1a and 1b are merely exemplification, and the cameras 1a and 1b may be disposed in any position in which the cameras 1a and 1b can shoot
20 the betting areas 12.

[0040]

 The camera 1a may shoot only a part of the betting areas 12a to 12f, but it is desirable that the camera 1a shoot all of the betting areas 12a to 12f. When the camera 1a shoots a
25 plurality of betting areas 12, it is expected that a sharp image can be obtained for betting areas 12 close to the camera 1a, but it is also considered that an unsharp image is obtained for

betting areas 12 far from the camera 1a. In addition, it is expected that a sharp image can be obtained for betting areas 12 that are in focus of the camera 1a, but it is also considered that an unsharp image is obtained for betting areas 12 that are
5 out of focus of the camera 1a. The same things can also be said for the camera 1b.

[0041]

Chips W are recognized using images obtained by shooting with the cameras 1a and 1b. Use of a sharp image increases the
10 accuracy of recognition of the chips W and use of an unsharp image reduces the accuracy of recognition of the chips W.

[0042]

FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing a schematic configuration of a chip recognition system. The chip
15 recognition system is to recognize chips W on a gaming table 10 in an amusement place having the gaming table 10, and includes cameras 1a and 1b, a game recording apparatus 2, an image analysis apparatus 3, a plurality of chip determination
apparatuses 4, and an artificial intelligence apparatus for
20 deciding a correct result 5.

[0043]

As described above, the cameras 1a and 1b shoot chips W stacked in the betting areas 12 on the gaming table 10. Images obtained by the shooting are transmitted to the game recording
25 apparatus 2 by wireless communication or wired communication.

[0044]

The game recording apparatus 2 records, as images, the

state of chips W stacked in a game which is played on the gaming table 10, using the cameras 1a and 1b. Namely, the game recording apparatus 2 records the images shot with the cameras 1a and 1b.

5 [0045]

The image analysis apparatus 3 performs an image analysis on the recorded images of the state of chips W. For example, the image analysis apparatus 3 performs filtering by the size (the number of pixels), shape (pattern matching), etc., of an assumed target (chip W) to make a distinction between the chips W and a background. It is desirable that the image analysis apparatus 3 be structured such that even if some or a single whole chip W of a plurality of chips W stacked in the betting areas 12 are/is hidden due to the blind spots of the cameras 1a and 1b, the image analysis apparatus 3 can obtain information about the type, number, and position of the chips W. Specifically, this becomes possible by artificial intelligence by teaching the artificial intelligence an image and the number of chips in the image as teacher data.

20 [0046]

The plurality of chip determination apparatuses 4 include, for example, two artificial intelligence apparatuses for determining the number of chips 4a and 4b and a physical measurement determination apparatus 4c. Note that the plurality of chip determination apparatuses 4 may include only two artificial intelligence apparatuses for determining the number of chips 4a and 4b, or may include only one artificial

intelligence apparatus for determining the number of chips 4a and the physical measurement determination apparatus 4c, or may include three or more artificial intelligence apparatuses for determining the number of chips, or may include an apparatus
5 that determines the number of chips by a different technique.

In order that the artificial intelligence apparatuses for determining the number of chips 4a and 4b can determine the number of chips W using an image analysis result obtained by the image analysis apparatus 3, the artificial intelligence
10 apparatuses for determining the number of chips 4a and 4b are subjected to pre-learning.

[0047]

The artificial intelligence apparatus for determining the number of chips 4a determines, using artificial
15 intelligence, the number of stacked chips W, using a result that is shot with the camera 1a and recorded as an image and further subjected to an image analysis. On the other hand, the artificial intelligence apparatus for determining the number of chips 4b determines, using artificial intelligence, the
20 number of stacked chips W, using a result that is shot with the camera 1b and recorded as an image (i.e., an image different from the image shot with the camera 1a) and further subjected to an image analysis.

[0048]

25 The physical measurement determination apparatus 4c determines the number of chips W by a physical measurement method without using artificial intelligence. For a specific

example of the physical measurement method, the number of chips W may be determined based on the height of the stacked chips W which is obtained by applying trigonometry to the images shot with the cameras 1a and 1b. Furthermore, specifically, the
 5 number of chips W can be determined by computing, using trigonometry, the angles of vision from the cameras 1a and 1b, the position of the chips W in the images, and a horizontal distance. Specific description will be made below.

[0049]

10 In FIG. 4, it is assumed that the cameras 1a and 1b and chips W are present in the same plane perpendicular to the gaming table 10. A relational expression between an angle α formed by a straight line connecting the camera 1a to the center C of the top chip W and the gaming table 10, an angle β formed by
 15 a straight line connecting the camera 1b to the center C of the top chip W and the gaming table 10, a distance L between a point of intersection KR of the straight line connecting the camera 1a to the center C of the top chip W and the gaming table 10 and a point of intersection KL of the straight line connecting
 20 the camera 1b to the center C of the top chip W and the gaming table 10, and a height H of the stacked chips W is represented by the following equation (1):

$$L = H/\tan \alpha + H/\tan \beta \quad \dots (1)$$

[0050]

25 Here, the distance L and the angles α and β are found by the following method. The points of intersection KR and KL are positions where the center C of the top chip W is projected onto

the gaming table 10 as viewed from the angles of view of the cameras 1a and 1b. Therefore, the points of intersection KR and KL are obtained by obtaining, by image processing, the center of the outline of the top chip W in images shot with the cameras 1a and 1b. Furthermore, by obtaining an image of the gaming table 10 looked down from immediately above by performing image processing on the images shot with the cameras 1a and 1b, the distance L between the points of intersection KR and KL is obtained. Furthermore, if the positions of the points of intersection KR and KL are known, then since the heights of the cameras 1a and 1b from the gaming table 10 are fixed, the angles α and β can be obtained. By the above, the height H of the stacked chips W can be obtained using the distance L and angles α and β obtained above and by the following equation (2) which is a modified version of the above-described equation (1):

$$H = (\tan \alpha \times \tan \beta) / ((\tan \alpha + \tan \beta)) L \dots (2)$$

[0051]

Although the above assumes that the cameras 1a and 1b and the chips W are present in the same plane perpendicular to the gaming table 10 for simplification of description, even when the cameras 1a and 1b and the chips W are not present in the same plane perpendicular to the gaming table 10, computation can be performed in the same manner in FIG. 5. Given that the point of intersection of a perpendicular line from the center C to the gaming table 10 with the gaming table 10 is O, the angle formed by a straight line connecting the points of intersection O and KR and a straight line connecting the points of

intersection KR and KL is γ , and the angle formed by a straight line connecting the points of intersection O and KL and the straight line connecting the points of intersection KR and KL is δ , though detailed computation is omitted, the height H is represented by the following equation (2'):

$$H = \tan \alpha \tan \beta / (\tan \alpha \cos \delta + \tan \beta \cos \gamma) L \dots (2')$$

[0052]

By obtaining the height H of stacked chips W by the methods shown above, the number of chips W with a predetermined thickness t can be obtained by H/t.

[0053]

Referring back to FIG. 3, the artificial intelligence apparatus for deciding a correct result 5 has learned in advance which one of determination results obtained by the artificial intelligence apparatuses for determining the number of chips 4a and 4b and the physical measurement determination apparatus 4c which are included in the plurality of chip determination apparatuses 4 is more likely to be correct for what image based on which the number of chips W is determined. Then, when the artificial intelligence apparatus for deciding a correct result 5 obtains different determination results for the number of chips W from the artificial intelligence apparatuses for determining the number of chips 4a and 4b and the physical measurement determination apparatus 4c, the artificial intelligence apparatus for deciding a correct result 5 decides the correct number of chips W using artificial intelligence. Upon this decision, the artificial intelligence apparatus for

deciding a correct result 5 uses images that are used by the artificial intelligence apparatuses for determining the number of chips 4a and 4b to determine the number of chips W.

[0054]

5 The artificial intelligence apparatus for deciding a correct result 5 may decide the correct number of chips W, taking into account the positions of the cameras 1a and 1b used by the game recording apparatus 2. For example, the camera 1a is close to the betting area 12a and is far from the betting area 12f
10 (see FIG. 1). Hence, when the artificial intelligence apparatus for deciding a correct result 5 determines the number of chips W stacked in the betting area 12a, the artificial intelligence apparatus for deciding a correct result 5 may decide the number of chips W obtained as a result of
15 determination by the artificial intelligence apparatus for determining the number of chips 4a that uses an image from the camera 1a, instead of by the artificial intelligence apparatus for determining the number of chips 4b that uses an image from the camera 1b, to be correct.

20 [0055]

 In addition, the artificial intelligence apparatus for deciding a correct result 5 may decide the correct number of chips W, taking into account the numbers of pixels obtained from the cameras 1a and 1b, etc. For example, either one of the
25 cameras 1a and 1b may be selected by comparing the numbers of pixels or the degrees of focus which are obtained from the cameras 1a and 1b. Namely, when focus is achieved, an edge

becomes sharp and thus contrast becomes clear, making it easier to obtain the correct number of chips W by image processing. Hence, for example, when different determination results are obtained for the cameras 1a and 1b, in general, it is highly
5 likely that a camera that achieves better focus shows the correct number of chips W.

[0056]

Alternatively, the artificial intelligence apparatus for deciding a correct result 5 may decide the correct number of
10 chips W, taking into account the focal positions of images shot with the cameras 1a and 1b. For example, it is assumed that upon determining the number of chips W stacked in the betting area 12b, the focus of the camera 1a is located in the betting area 12b and the focus of the camera 1b is located in the betting
15 area 12f. In this case, the artificial intelligence apparatus for deciding a correct result 5 may decide the number of chips W obtained as a result of determination by the artificial intelligence apparatus for determining the number of chips 4a that uses an image from the camera 1a, instead of by the
20 artificial intelligence apparatus for determining the number of chips 4b that uses an image from the camera 1b, to be correct.

[0057]

In addition, the artificial intelligence apparatus for deciding a correct result 5 may decide the correct number of
25 chips W, taking into account the past results obtained by the artificial intelligence apparatuses for determining the number of chips 4a and 4b and the physical measurement determination

apparatus 4c. For example, when the physical measurement determination apparatus 4c has a higher past correctness rate than the artificial intelligence apparatuses for determining the number of chips 4a and 4b, the artificial intelligence apparatus for deciding a correct result 5 may decide the number of chips W obtained as a result of determination by the physical measurement determination apparatus 4c to be correct.

[0058]

As such, the artificial intelligence apparatus for deciding a correct result 5 can decide a correct result using various elements. Two or more of the exemplified positions of the cameras 1a and 1b, numbers of pixels obtained from the cameras 1a and 1b, focal positions of images, and past results may be combined, or other information may be further used.

[0059]

FIG. 6 is a flowchart showing a technique for recognizing chips W. First, the cameras 1a and 1b shoot the state of chips W, and the game recording apparatus 2 records images representing the state of chips W (step S1). Subsequently, the image analysis apparatus 3 analyzes the recorded images (step S2). Then, each of the artificial intelligence apparatuses for determining the number of chips 4a and 4b and the physical measurement determination apparatus 4c which are included in the plurality of chip determination apparatuses 4 determines the number of chips W using an image analysis result (step S3).

[0060]

Here, if determination results for the number of chips

W which are obtained by the artificial intelligence apparatuses for determining the number of chips 4a and 4b and the physical measurement determination apparatus 4c match (YES at step S4), the determination results are used as the number of chips W.

5 On the other hand, if the determination results do not match (NO at step S4), the artificial intelligence apparatus for deciding a correct result 5 decides which one of the determination results is correct, i.e., decides the correct number of chips W (step S5).

10 [0061]

As such, in the present embodiment, the plurality of chip determination apparatuses 4 are provided, and furthermore, the artificial intelligence apparatus for deciding a correct result 5 is provided. Hence, even when the plurality of chip

15 determination apparatuses 4 provide different determination results, the number of chips W can be accurately decided by the artificial intelligence apparatus for deciding a correct result 5.

[0062]

20 Note that the above-described embodiment is to decide the number of chips W. However, both the type and number of chips W may be decided. For example, the artificial intelligence apparatuses for determining the number of chips 4a and 4b may have learned in advance to determine the type and number of chips

25 W, and determine both the type and number using images having been subject to an image analysis. In that case, if the types of chips W indicated by determination results do not match, the

artificial intelligence apparatus for deciding a correct result
5 may further decide the correct type of chips W.

[0063]

In addition, the chip recognition system may include a
5 management and control apparatus that controls at least some
of the game recording apparatus 2, the image analysis apparatus
3, the chip determination apparatuses 4, and the artificial
intelligence apparatus for deciding a correct result 5.

[0064]

10 For example, when determination results for the number
(and/or type, the same also applies below) of chips W which are
obtained from the artificial intelligence apparatuses for
determining the number of chips 4a and 4b differ from a
determination result for the number of chips W which is obtained
15 from the physical measurement determination apparatus 4c, the
management and control apparatus may output and display
“undetermined” as a determination result.

[0065]

In addition, when the chip determination apparatuses 4
20 obtain different determination results for the number of chips
W, the management and control apparatus may analyze images in
the game recording apparatus 2 to determine whether the
difference in determination result is caused by the stacking
state of chips W stacked on the gaming table 10, and decide the
25 correct number of chips W based on the determination results
obtained by the respective chip determination apparatuses 4.
The management and control apparatus may have an artificial

intelligence apparatus function and use the artificial
intelligence apparatus function for the decision.

[0066]

The above-described embodiment is described with the aim
5 of allowing a person of ordinary knowledge in the technical
field to which the present invention belongs to carry out the
present invention. Various variants of the above-described
embodiment can be made as a matter of course by a person skilled
in the art, and the technical idea of the present invention can
10 also be applied to other embodiments. Therefore, the present
invention should not be construed as being limited to the
described embodiment, but should be construed as having the
widest range according to the technical idea defined by the
claims.

15

Description of Reference Signs

[0067]

1a and 1b: CAMERA

2: GAME RECORDING APPARATUS

20 3: IMAGE ANALYSIS APPARATUS

4: A PLURALITY OF CHIP DETERMINATION APPARATUSES

4a and 4b: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS FOR
DETERMINING THE NUMBER OF CHIPS

4c: PHYSICAL MEASUREMENT DETERMINATION APPARATUS

25 5: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS FOR DECIDING A
CORRECT RESULT

10: GAMING TABLE

11 and 11a to 11f: CHAIR

12 and 12a to 12f: BETTING AREA

What is claimed is:

1. A chip recognition system that recognizes a chip on a gaming table in an amusement place having the gaming table, the chip recognition system comprising:

5 a game recording apparatus that records, as an image, a state of chips stacked on the gaming table, using a camera;

an image analysis apparatus that performs an image analysis on the recorded image of the state of chips;

10 a plurality of chip determination apparatuses comprising at least a first apparatus that uses artificial intelligence to determine a number of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result obtained by the image analysis apparatus, wherein the determination of the number
15 of the chips stacked is made separately by different respective ones of the plurality of chip determination apparatuses, thereby providing a plurality of respective results of the determination of the number of the chips stacked; and

20 a second apparatus that is configured to:

compare the plurality of respective results to one another;

based on the comparison, identify that the respective results of the determination of the number
25 of the chips differ between different ones of the plurality of chip determination apparatuses; and

in response to the identification, determine

which one of the different determination results to select as being correct or otherwise decide a correct number of the chips stacked.

- 5 2. The chip recognition system according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of chip determination apparatuses comprise at least:

the first apparatus that determines a number of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result for a first
10 image, the image analysis result being obtained by the image analysis apparatus; and

a third apparatus that uses artificial intelligence to determine a number of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result for a second image, the image analysis
15 result being obtained by the image analysis apparatus and the second image being different from the first image.

3. The chip recognition system according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of chip determination apparatuses
20 comprise at least:

the first apparatus that determines a number of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result obtained by the image analysis apparatus; and

a physical measurement determination apparatus that
25 determines a number of the chips stacked, by a physical measurement method different from a method used by the first apparatus.

4. The chip recognition system according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of chip determination apparatuses comprise at least:

5 the first apparatus that determines a number of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result for a first image, the image analysis result being obtained by the image analysis apparatus;

a third apparatus that uses artificial intelligence
10 to determine a number of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result for a second image, the image analysis result being obtained by the image analysis apparatus and the second image being different from the first image; and

a physical measurement determination apparatus that
15 determines a number of the chips stacked, by a physical measurement method different from methods used by the first and third apparatuses.

5. The chip recognition system according to claim 3,
20 wherein the physical measurement determination apparatus determines a number of the chips stacked, using a measurement result that uses trigonometry.

6. The chip recognition system according to claim 1,
25 wherein the selection of the one of the different determinations or the decision of the correct number of the chips stacked is performed using at least one of:

a position of the camera used by the game recording apparatus;

a number of pixels obtained from the camera;

a focal position of the image; and

5 past results obtained by the plurality of chip determination apparatuses.

7. A chip recognition system that recognizes a chip on a gaming table in an amusement place having the gaming table,
10 the chip recognition system comprising:

a game recording apparatus that records, as an image, a state of chips stacked on the gaming table, using a camera;

an image analysis apparatus that performs an image
15 analysis on the recorded image of the state of chips;

a plurality of chip determination apparatuses comprising at least a first apparatus that uses artificial intelligence to determine a number and a type of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result obtained by the
20 image analysis apparatus, wherein the determination of the number and the type of the chips stacked is made separately by different respective ones of the plurality of chip determination apparatuses, thereby providing a plurality of respective results of the determination of the number and
25 the type of the chips stacked; and

a second apparatus that is configured to:

compare the plurality of respective results to

one another;

based on the comparison, identify that the
respective results of the determination of the number
and the type of the chips differ between different
ones of the plurality of chip determination
apparatuses; and

in response to the identification, determine
which one of the different determination results to
select as being correct or otherwise decide a correct
number or type of the chips stacked.

8. The chip recognition system according to claim 7,
wherein the plurality of chip determination apparatuses
comprise at least:

the first apparatus that determines a number and a
type of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result
for a first image, the image analysis result being obtained
by the image analysis apparatus; and

a third apparatus that uses artificial intelligence
to determine a number and a type of the chips stacked,
using an image analysis result for a second image, the
image analysis result being obtained by the image analysis
apparatus and the second image being different from the
first image.

9. The chip recognition system according to claim 7,
wherein the plurality of chip determination apparatuses

comprise at least:

the first apparatus that determines a number and a type of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result obtained by the image analysis apparatus; and

5 a physical measurement determination apparatus that determines a number of the chips stacked, by a physical measurement method different from a method used by the first apparatus.

10 10. The chip recognition system according to claim 7, wherein the plurality of chip determination apparatuses comprise at least:

the first apparatus that determines a number and a type of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result

15 for a first image, the image analysis result being obtained by the image analysis apparatus;

a third apparatus that uses artificial intelligence to determine a number and a type of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result for a second image, the

20 image analysis result being obtained by the image analysis apparatus and the second image being different from the first image; and

a physical measurement determination apparatus that determines a number of the chips stacked, by a physical

25 measurement method different from methods used by the first and third apparatuses.

11. The chip recognition system according to claim 9,
wherein the physical measurement determination apparatus
determines a number of the chips stacked, using a
measurement result that uses trigonometry.

5

12. The chip recognition system according to claim 7,
wherein the selection of the one of the different
determinations or the decision of the correct number or
type of the chips stacked is performed using at least one

10 of:

a position of the camera used by the game recording
apparatus;

a number of pixels obtained from the camera;

a focal position of the image; and

15 past results obtained by the plurality of chip
determination apparatuses.

13. The chip recognition system according to claim 7,
wherein the image analysis apparatus is configured such
20 that even if a part of a plurality of stacked chips or a
whole of a single chip among the plurality of stacked chips
is hidden due to a blind spot of the camera, the image
analysis apparatus can obtain information about a type, a
number, and a position of the chips.

25

14. A chip recognition system that recognizes a chip on a
gaming table in an amusement place having the gaming table,

the chip recognition system comprising:

a game recording apparatus that records, as an image, a state of chips stacked on the gaming table, using a camera;

5 an image analysis apparatus that performs an image analysis on the recorded image of the state of chips;

a chip determination apparatus comprising an artificial intelligence apparatus that determines a number of chips bet by a player, using an image analysis result
10 obtained by the image analysis apparatus;

a physical measurement determination apparatus that determines a number of the chips bet by the player, by a physical measurement method different from a method used by the artificial intelligence apparatus; and

15 a management and control apparatus that controls the image analysis apparatus, the chip determination apparatus, and the physical measurement determination apparatus, wherein the management and control apparatus further has a function of:

20 comparing the numbers of chips determined by the chip determination apparatus and the physical measurement determination apparatus to thereby identify that the compared numbers differ; and

in response to the identification, outputting
25 and displaying "undetermined" as a determination result.

15. The chip recognition system according to claim 14, wherein the physical measurement determination apparatus determines a number of the chips using a measurement result that uses trigonometry.

5

16. A chip recognition system that recognizes a chip on a gaming table in an amusement place having the gaming table, the chip recognition system comprising:

a plurality of cameras that obtain images of a chip
10 bet by a player from different positions or different angles;

a game recording apparatus that records, as images, a state of chips stacked on the gaming table, using the plurality of cameras;

15 an image analysis apparatus that performs an image analysis on the recorded images of the state of chips;

a plurality of chip determination apparatuses comprising at least a first apparatus that determines a number of the chips stacked, using an image analysis result
20 obtained by the image analysis apparatus, wherein the determination of the number of the chips stacked is made separately by different respective ones of the plurality of chip determination apparatuses, thereby providing a plurality of respective results of the determination of the
25 number of the chips stacked; and

a management and control apparatus that controls the image analysis apparatus and the plurality of chip

determination apparatuses, wherein the management and control apparatus further has a second apparatus configured to:

compare the plurality of respective results to
5 one another;

based on the comparison, identify that the results of the determination of the number of chips differ between different ones of the plurality of chip determination apparatuses; and

10 in response to the identification:

analyze the images in the game recording apparatus to determine whether the difference in the results of the determination is caused by a stacking state of the chips stacked on the
15 gaming table; and

decide a correct number of the chips stacked, based on the results of the determination obtained by the respective plurality of chip determination apparatuses and
20 based on the determination of whether the different is caused by the stacking state.

17. The chip recognition system according to claim 1, wherein:

25 the image includes two images;

the camera includes two cameras each configured to capture a respective one of the two images from a different

angle relative to the gaming table; and

at least one of the plurality of chip determination apparatuses is configured to determine the number of the chips stacked by:

5 identifying in each of the two images a respective relationship between a specific point in the stack of the chips and the gaming table as imaged in the respective image;

determining a height of the stack of the chips
10 based on a combination of the identified relationships; and

determine the number of the chips stacked based on the determined height.

15 18. The chip recognition system according to claim 17, wherein the specific point is a point of a top of the stack of the chips and the respective relationship includes a respective intersection point at which a line that extends from the respective camera through the specific point
20 intersects a top surface of the gaming table.

19. The chip recognition system according to claim 18, wherein the at least one of the plurality of chip determination apparatuses is configured to determine the
25 height of the stack of the chips based on a determination of a distance between the two respective intersection points.

20. The chip recognition system according to claim 1,
wherein the second apparatus uses artificial intelligence
to perform its determination.

5

21. The chip recognition system according to claim 7,
wherein the second apparatus uses artificial intelligence
to perform its determination.

10 22. The chip recognition system according to claim 16,
wherein the second apparatus uses artificial intelligence
to perform its determination.