CLAIMS:

1. A camera for processing a bar code image, comprising:

an optical sensor to sense an optical image as a rectangular array of pixels;

a storage element coupled to the optical sensor to store the image as values for the rectangular array of pixels;

a processor coupled to the storage element to analyze the stored image; and

the camera further comprises an optical lens system coupled to the optical sensor having a first position and a second position for at least one optical component in the optical lens system;, the optical lens system including a primary lens to focus a distant object on the optical sensor, the at least one optical component including a movable auxiliary lens;

wherein the moveable auxiliary lens permits the camera to focus on an object at a first distance when the auxiliary lens is in the first position and permits the camera to focus on the bar code at a second distance when the auxiliary lens is in the second position, the auxiliary lens being in an optical path of the primary lens in the second position and not in the optical path of the primary lens in the first position, the first distance being longer than the second distance, and wherein the moveable auxiliary lens moves perpendicularly to the optical path of the primary lens when moving between the first position and the second position;

wherein the moveable auxiliary lens is physically stable in the first and second positions; and

wherein the moveable auxiliary lens is physically unstable between the first and second positions causing the moveable auxiliary lens to move from between the first and second positions to either the first position or the second position.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus provides spring-loaded force to cause the moveable auxiliary lens to move to either the first position or the second position if placed in a position between the first position and the second position.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the primary lens and the auxiliary lens are constructed of optically refractive material, and are arranged in the second position such that

light traveling through the primary lens and the auxiliary lens will be focused on the optical sensor.

4. A method of focusing with lenses of a camera, comprising:

moving a movable first lens to a first position with respect to a second lens on a camera to permit a first focus distance for the camera; and

moving the movable first lens to a second position with respect to the second lens to permit a second focus distance for the camera, wherein the first focus distance is longer than the second focus distance;

wherein the moveable first lens is physically unstable in any position other than the first and second positions causing the moveable first lens to move from a position other than the first or second position to either the first position or the second position;

wherein the moveable first lens is in an optical path of the second lens when in the ~~first~~ second position and out of the optical path of the second lens when in the ~~second~~ first position; and

wherein moving the first lens between the first position and the second position includes moving the first lens perpendicularly to the optical path of the second lens.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein movement of the moveable first lens into the first and second positions is manually selected by a user.