CLAIMS

1. A method of recording an image using a first camera, the method comprising the steps of:

disposing a first reflective prism in front of the first camera such that the first prism deflects light from a first field of view onto a sensor of the first camera in a single deflection, wherein the first field of view extends symmetrically around a non-perpendicular direction relative to an entrance lens surface of the first camera;

disposing a second reflective prism in front of the first camera adjacent to the first prism such that the second prism deflects light from a second field of view onto the same sensor of the first camera in a single deflection, wherein the second field of view extends symmetrically around a different non-perpendicular direction relative to the entrance lens surface of the first camera compared to the first field of view;

simultaneously capturing, with the first and second prisms in place in front of the first camera and using the same sensor:

a first image over at least a portion of the first field of view; and

a second image over at least a portion of a second field of view different from the first field of view ;

wherein an angular range of each of the first and second images is at least 30 °.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein an angular range of each of the first and second images is about 45 °.

3. The method of claims 1 or 2, comprising using a second camera to capture another image over another field of view, and forming a composite image based on two or more of a group consisting of the first image, the second image and the other image.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the other field of view extends symmetrically around a perpendicular direction relative to an entrance lens surface of the camera.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the entrance lens surface of the second camera is in the same plane as the entrance lens surface of the first camera.

6. The method of any one of claims 3 to 5, wherein an angular range of the composite image is at least 120 °.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the angular range of the composite image is about 180 °.

8. The method of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the first and second prisms comprise respective right-angle prisms.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the right angle prisms are disposed on the first camera such that the faces thereof defining the right-angle are parallel and perpendicular, respectively, to the entrance lens surface of the first camera.

10. The method of claims 8 or 9, wherein the right angle prisms are disposed on the first camera with substantially no gap between them.

11. A camera device comprising:

a first reflective prism disposed in front of a first camera unit of the camera device such that the first prism deflects light from a first field of view onto the sensor of the first camera unit in a single deflection, wherein the first field of view extends symmetrically around a non-perpendicular direction relative to an entrance lens surface of the first camera unit;

a second reflective prism in front of the first camera unit adjacent to the first prism such that the second prism deflects light from a second field of view onto the same sensor of the first camera unit in a single deflection, wherein the second field of view extends symmetrically around a different non-perpendicular direction relative to the entrance lens surface of the first camera unitcompared to the first field of view;

wherein the camera device is configured for simultaneously capturing, with the first and second prisms in place in front of the first camera unit and using the same sensor:

a first image over at least a portion of the first field of view; and

a second image over at least a portion of a second field of view different from the first field of view;

wherein an angular range of each of the first and second images is at least 30 °.

12. The camera device of claim 11, wherein the angular range of each of the first and second images is about 45 °.

13. The camera device of claims 11 or 12, comprising a second camera unit to capture another image over another field of view, and the camera device is configured for forming a composite image based on two or more of a group consisting of the first image, the second image and the other image.

14. The camera device of claim 13, wherein the other field of view extends symmetrically around a perpendicular direction relative to an entrance lens surface of the camera.

15. The camera device of claim 14, wherein the entrance lens surface of the second camera unit is in the same plane as the entrance lens surface of the first camera unit.

16. The camera device of any one of claims 13 to 15, wherein an angular range of the composite image is at least 120 °.

17. The camera device of claim 16, wherein the angular range of the composite image is about 180 °.

18. The camera device of any one of claims 11 to 17, wherein the first and second prisms comprise respective right-angle prisms.

19. The camera device of claim 18, wherein the right angle prisms are disposed on the first camera such that the faces thereof defining the right-angle are parallel and perpendicular, respectively, to the entrance lens surface of the first camera.

20. The camera device of claims 18 or 19, wherein the right angle prisms are disposed on the first camera with substantially no gap between them.