Software Manual
TMvision

Original Instructions

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Revision History Table

Revision	Date	Revised Content
1.00	2019-04-02	Original release
1.01	2019-06-12	Minor context revised.

1. General

1.1 Overview

TMvision is a combined hardware and software built-in feature of TM Robot. Regarding the hardware: There is a visual camera module at the end of the TM Robot for you to experience complete visual software functionalities. The software comes in two functions: Standard and Licensed. The Standard function supports most robot applications, while the Licensed function consists of separate modules that may be purchased as needed.

With approvals from a variety of robot vision manufacturers, TMvision comes with functions such as feature identification, object location, enhance mode, barcode identification as well as color classifier integrated into TMflow for users to design the robot task with step by step.

TM Robot's built-in Vision Designer supports Eye-in-Hand (EIH), Eye-to-Hand (ETH), and Upward-Looking cameras with balanced high-level integration and multiple supports. The hardware and software integrated internal Vision Designer does away with the complex vision components of conventional systems, and saves you time in getting familiar with robots that you may know little about. For users familiar with robot and machine vision, TMvision comes with a wide range of assistance and integration tools for you to generate diversified visual robot integration platforms.
This manual begins with the built-in EIH camera to outline the TM exclusive Task Designer system with the built-in camera. It then describes the external camera's software and hardware integration, and ends with an introduction of advanced licensed functions.

This manual applies to TMflow Version 1.72. There will be differences between the functions and interfaces of different software versions. Confirm your software version before using and reading this manual. To confirm the software version, click at the top right of the screen for the information.

1.2 Warning and Caution Symbols

The Table below shows the definitions of the warning and caution levels described in each paragraph of this Manual. Pay close attention to them when reading each paragraph, and observe them to avoid personal injuries or equipment damage.

	**DANGER:** Identifies an imminently hazardous situation which, if not avoided, is likely to result in serious injury, and might result in death or severe property damage.
	**WARNING:** Identifies a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in minor or moderate injury, and might result in serious injury, death, or significant property damage.

	CAUTION: Identifies a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, might result in minor injury, moderate injury, or property damage.

Table 1: Warning and Caution Symbols

1.3 Safety Precautions

DANGER:
This product can cause serious injury or death, or damage to itself and other equipment, if the following safety precautions are not observed:

- All personnel who install, operate, teach, program, or maintain the system must read the Hardware installation Manual, Software Manual, and Safety Manual according to the software and hardware version of this product, and complete a training course for their responsibilities in regard to the robot.

Read Manual Label; Impact Warning

- All personnel who design the robot system must read the Hardware installation Manual, Software Manual, and Safety Manual according to the software and hardware version of this product, and must comply with all local and national safety regulations for the location in which the robot is installed.
- The TM Robot shall be used according to its intended use.
- Results of the risk assessment may require the use of additional risk reduction measures.
- Power to the robot and its power supply must be locked out and tagged out or have means to control hazardous energy or implement energy isolation before any maintenance is performed.
- Dispose of the product in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations of the country or area where the product is used.

1.4 Validation and Liability

The information contained herein neither includes how to design, install, and operate a complete robotic arm system, nor involves the peripherals which may affect the safety of the complete system. The integrators of the robot should understand the safety laws and regulations in their countries and prevent major hazards from occurring in the complete system.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Risk assessment of the whole system
- Adding other machines and additional safety mechanisms based on the results of the risk assessment
- Building appropriate safety mechanisms in the software
- Ensuring the user will not modify any safety-related measures
- Ensuring all systems are correctly designed and installed
- Clearly labeling user instructions
- Clearly marked symbols for installation of the robot arm and the integrator contact details
- Collecting all documents into the technology folder, including the risk assessment, and this Manual

CAUTION:
This product is a partly complete machine. The design and installation of the complete system must comply with the safety standards and regulations in the country of use. The user and integrators of the robot should understand the safety laws and regulations in their countries and prevent major hazards from occurring in the complete system.

1.5 Limitation of Liability

No safety-related information shall be considered a guarantee by the Corporation that TM Robot will not cause personnel injury or property damage.

1.6 Functional Note Symbols

The following table defines the functional note symbols marked in each paragraph in this manual. Read the paragraphs carefully to assist the improvement of programming efficiency.

IMPORTANT	**IMPORTANT:** This mark symbol represents the relevant functional details reminder, to assist programming and use.
Note	**NOTE:** This mark symbol represents the relevant functional use tips, to assist the improvement of programming efficiency.

Table 2: Function Note Symbols

2. Eye-in-Hand

2.1 Overview

The TM Robot's built-in Vision Designer system integrates hands, eyes and brains of conventional robots into one. This not only enables you to execute high precision jobs but also provides high-elasticity for fast line changes. Regarding hardware operation, users can move the robot to right above the object and press the Vision button on the camera to generate a Vision node in TMflow for subsequent visual job programming. See relevant Hardware Installation Manual for the position of the buttons.

TMvision is designed for coordinates adjustment and vision jobs administration, and users can set parameters of visual features on lighting and imaging in the Vision node to enhance the performance of idenfication. Refer to the following chapters for details and instructions.

2.2 Vision Base System Positioning Mode

TM Robot comes with a 2D camera as the built-in vision system that supports the positioning model on the object-oriented base or the robot alignment-oriented base. For the the object-oriented base positioning model, it is required to create workspace and make sure the workspace is parallel to the object. Failure to do so may result in distorted imaging and visual identification job failures. TMvision offers four positioning methods: TM Landmark, fixed-point, visual servoing, and object-based calibration as described below.

2.2.1 TM Landmark

TM Landmark provides a fast, simple and flexible base system positioning method as a reference to the environment. Capturing TM Landmark with TM Robot will generate the position information of six degrees of freedom (including X, Y, Z, RX, RY, RZ) once to build a base system accordingly for users to record following points and motions. When robot is repurposed or relocated, when the relative position of robot and landmark changed, it's simple - use the robot to take a photo of TM landmark again, to regain 6 DoF of new environment and renew landmark base system. The recorded points and motions on the Landmark base system will be converted to the base system automatically to have the robot move to the same position once again.

TM Landmark is a 0.2 cm thick and 5x5 cm square plastic plate as shown in the figure below. By capturing and recognizing TM Landmark's black and white borders and central graphic features through TM Robot's EIH camera, the robot can create the base system in the center of the TM Landmark's black and white border. Note that the accuracy of landmark positioning is not

sufficient for identification and alignment purpose. In principle, TM Landmark is not designed for users to have the robot directly go to individual points or execute motions after creating a base system. Instead, it is an alignment tool to lead the robot toward a valid visual point. Users shall use the TM Robot visual positioning function to identify and locate the actual object in the last step to get the best results.

TM Landmark generates a base system with six degrees of freedom, and the data in the RX, RY, and Z directions are not easy to obtain correctly by EIH 2D vision (i.e. whether the camera plane is parallel to the object and how long is the distance in between the camera plane and the object). TM Landmark can enhance the positioning ability of the 2D vision along these axes. Despite the fact that TM Landmark is able to get their data of the X, Y, and RZ direction, chances are users may fail to attach TM Landmark precisely to the operating environment, it is not recommended to use the data directly for positioning. Due to the fact that these thress degrees of freedom compensate the positioning of the base data in EIH 2D vision, users should use the data mutually. As a regular approach, users should use TM Landmark to have the robot guide its relative relationship between the peripherals or the RX, RY, and the Z axes. That is to say, use the positioning of TM Landmark on the thress axes to ensure the visual points recorded in the TM Landmark base system, after updating with the landmark base system of the visual point camera posture, are able to back to the state of parallel with workpiece features (RX, RY) and the correct distance to workpiece features (Z) at the same time as the basis for the subsequent 2D vision job, so users can use each of the TMvision 2D functions to align the remaining axial directions of X, Y and RZ. Even if the relative position between base of robot and the TM Landmark changes, users can reuse the points and the motions recorded in the landmark base system from the former project by having the robot shoot the TM Landmark again.

When planning a project, users may place TM Landmark in the target task environment to create a TM Robot vision job and subsequent motions with the base system. Shooting the TM Landmark again in later operations will have the robot reset to the original base system automatically, i.e. to change alignment of robot according to site conditions without being confined to a fixed alignment.

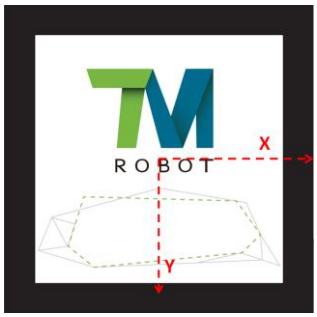


Figure 1: TM Landmark

NOTE:
The farther away of TM Landmark from the camera the less accurate the alignment will be. The tradeoff is that a bigger field of view tends to capture changes of relative alignment between the robot and the TM Landmark. A shorter distance in between the camera and Landmark has the advantage of better aligning accuracy but comes at the cost of a smaller field of view and Landmark's easy falling out of vision. Users are advised to edit 2 vision jobs, the one nearer and the other farther, when using TM Landmark. The farther one is aimed to quickly detect the TM Landmark in a workspace to create the first base system. Then, pull the robot close while orienting the RX, RY, and RZ angles of the second visual points (set these axes in the original base system orthogonal) to zero and keep them as close as possible, e.g. camera and TM Landmark 10cm apart from each other. Shoot the same TM Landmark to get a more accurate Landmark base system.

2.2.2 Fixed Positioning

The fixed positioning function is designed with a pre-set object placement area and pre-set height for vision jobs. Users may create a workspace with the TM calibration plate. When using the TM calibration plate for fixed-point aligning, the relative height of the Vision Designer and the work plane is also defined. When using fixed-point aligning to establish a workspace, users shall ensure that the absolute height of camera and object must be equal to the workspace created by the TM calibration plate.

Figure 2: Fixed Positioning

2.2.3 Servoing

The servoing function is for users to define the object features. In each servoing process, TMvision automatically sets the robot position based on the defined object as the accepted sample to return the relative position of the camera and object.

2.2.4 Object-based Calibration

The principle of the object-based calibration is basically teaching as servoing and ending as fixed-point positioning. At first, run the tilt correction with the calibration plate to define the visual servoing workspace with the actual workpiece and convert to the fixed point positioning with calculations. Since the servo calibration is used only when defining the workspace for the first time, the robot will place the workpiece at the four corners of the camera’s view field to create the workspace with four movements and make the fixed-point positioning calculation with the workspace accordingly. This takes the advantages of the fixed positioning's saving time on positioning and the servoing without the calibration plate. For proceeding smoothly with the object calibration, the features of the object should not be too big to fit in the view field during the servo calibration.

2.3 Camera List

List of cameras on the left side of TMvision shows cameras in use and their status. Right-click the menu to pop up a list of refresh menus and GigE camera detection.

2.4 Controller

To help users control the robot movements, TMvision provides the controller interface for users to move the robot to the appropriate positions and edit the following vision jobs.

2.5 Camera Kit

The camera kit is used to adjust camera imaging, including camera parameter setting, focus / aperture, brightness setting, and tilt-correction.

Name	Function
Camera Parameter Setting	Includes shutter and focus for the built-in camera and contrast and white balance for extracted images. All modules feature auto once function. Click Save to validate change made after adjustment jobs ended.
Focus / Aperture	To assist adjusting focus and aperture of external camera: it provides visual tools for easy regulation. Users may read scores of current focus and aperture on the left, which vary with change in focus and aperture with the external camera. The calibration ends when the scores hit the Max line and stop rising even after more adjustment.
Brightness Setting	Includes illuminance visualization tool to enable users adjusting lighting tools for optimized illumination distribution. The left side set up sensitivity of the visualization tool. The two trackbars in the settings indicate the upper and lower limits of the visualization display. The brightness over the upper and lower limits shall be defaulted to either limits for display. If the illuminance in field of view is uniform, colors shown by visualization tools may remain close to each other in case of high sensitivity (upper and lower slides being farthest away from each other).
Tilt-Correction	Secure TM Landmark or calibration plate to the target plane as a calibration tool to enable the robot's automatic adjustment to the tilt angle and paralleling the camera to target plane. Adjust camera parameter settings to ensure TM Landmark or calibration plate is detectable before running tilt-correction. Keep adequate clearance around the robot as in an automatic tilt-correction process the robot will move around its current position.

Table 3: Camera Kit Functions

NOTE:

1. The default resolution of the camera is 5M pixels, and so is the production calibration. 5M pixels positioning is supported in Fixed Point and Landmark.
2. If your robot had TMFlow 1.68, once upgraded to TMFlow 1.72, the default 5MP camera setting won't take effect. Please contact service team to conduct 5MP calibration procedures to enable this functionality.
3. Previous vision jobs built with 1.2M pixels will remain previous settings.

2.6 Calibrate Workspace

Workspace calibration includes the automatic calibration and the manual calibration to help users create workspaces for fixed-point vision jobs. Workspace calibration will generate the information of the workspace as well as the VPoint. Refer to Expression Editor and Listen Node for details of VPoint.

2.6.1 Automatic Calibration

The automatic workspace calibration comes with four steps: 1. Tilt-Correction; 2. Confirm Workspace; 3. Calibrate Workspace; 4. Save Results

NOTE:

- Before starting calibration: Position the identification target in the center of the field of view with the controller or manual handle. Place the camera 10 to 30 cm above the target. Determine the plane where the feature is located before placing the calibration plate on the plane. In case the workpiece geometry does not allow for a calibration plate, you may replace the workspace with an object of the proper height to fix the calibration plate at the same height as the identification feature.
- Simply click **Yes** when the message to skip tilt-correction prompted to bypass tilt-correction while calibrating workspace with eye-in-hand.

IMPORTANT:

Keep adequate clearance around the robot as in an automatic calibration process the robot will move around the initial position.

Once well prepared, keep away from the calibration plate and do not move it, and then start the calibration process.

Step 1. Tilt-Correction: Correct tilt before workspace calibration to ensure the calibration plate is parallel to the camera.

Step 2. Confirm Workspace: Visual check tilt-correction. Click the icon in flow chart to calibrate tilt again if necessary. The robot shall be positioned at the initial position of the robot of this workspace.

Step 3. Calibrate Workspace: Click Start to have the robot take pictures of the calibration plate with multiple angles to calculate the relative position of the workspace created by the calibration plate to the robot. When performing the fixed-point feature identification, the workspace created by the calibration plate will serve as the reference plane for the position idenfication of the feature point.

Step 4. Save Results: Once the accuracy has been validated, save the calibration results in a workspace file to access it in fixed vision jobs.

2.6.2 Manual Calibration

The manual workspace calibration has four steps: 1. Confirm Workspace; 2. Set Calibration Tool; 3. Calibrate Workspace; 4. Save Results

NOTE:

- Before starting calibration: Mount the required calibration tools on flange surface of the robot, and it is recommended to use the calibration pin set provided by Techman Robot as the calibration tool. The calibration tool shall go over the hand guidance teaching process for TCP to obtain the actual installation position value. Once installed, position the identification target in the center of the field of view with the controller or manual handle; place the camera 10 to 30 cm above the target; determine the

plane where the feature is located before placing the calibration plate on the plane. In case the workpiece geometry does not allow for a calibration plate, you may replace the workspace with an object of the proper height to fix the calibration plate at the same height as the identification feature.

- Simply click **Yes** when the message to skip tilt-correction prompted to bypass tilt-correction while calibrating workspace with eye-in-hand.

IMPORTANT:
Once well prepared, do not move the calibration plate, and then start the calibration process.

Step 1. Confirm Workspace: The robot shall be positioned at the initial position of the robot of this workspace.

Step 2. Set Up Calibration Tool: Select the tool center point shape compliant with the calibration tool selected

Step 3. Calibrate workspace: Point the calibration tool to the calibration plate grid shown on the screen when being prompted, click Next, repeat this step five times. Use the controller to manipulate the robot when running this operation.

Step 4. Save Results: Once the accuracy has been validated, save the calibration results in a workspace file to access it in fixed vision jobs.

2.7 Live Video

Live Video provides instant camera image with functions at the bottom (from left to right): zoom out, display ratio, zoom in, text tool, play, play once, pause, and grid

Figure 3: Live Video

Functions	Suitable for hand-eye relationship
Zoom out Zoom in	The Eye-in-hand / eye-to-hand function is designed to change display ratio of the camera. This zooms in and out image displayed without changing the scope of extraction by the camera.

Text tool	Set the color, the offset, the size, the style, the prefix and the suffix of the text and the objects on the screen.
Play Play Once Pause	Set up extract mode (default = continuous extract) for users convenience to capture current image shown on camera; pause extract: to freeze image and stop capturing; extract once: to get current image when pressing the extract button.
Grid	Turn on grid at the center of the live video to help composition.

Table 4: Live Video Functions

NOTE:
Users can navigate the mouse cursor anywhere on the screen to view the coordinate and the RGB values of the pixel in the live video.

2.8 Task Designer

TMvision provides users with process of editing visual work, see Chapter 3 Task Designer for details.

2.9 Hard Drive Setting

Hard Drive setting provides users with the ability to manage photo storage space and requires the TM SSD (sold separately) to save source images or result images for analysis. Images are available to save in **png**, **jpg**, or **bmp**. While the **Source Image** is saved in **png** by default, the **Result Image**, **jpg**. The pie chart in the bottom left tells used space, available space, and reserved space. Users may check from **Do not save data** or **Delete from the oldest data** in **Stop status handling**, click **Select Path** to assign the path to store files, and drag the slider to configure the size reserved for the free space.

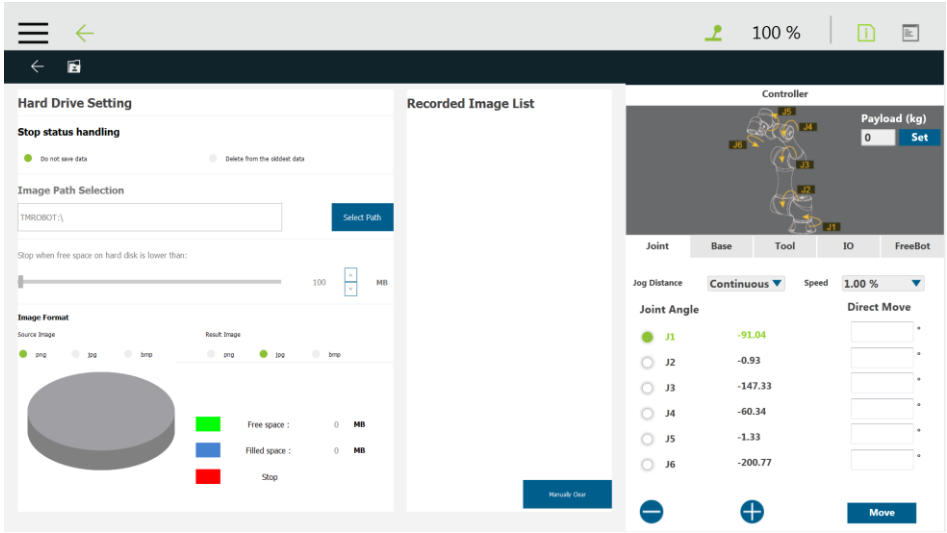


Figure 4: Hard Drive Setting

3. Task Designer

3.1 Overview

TMvision contains the following task designer functions: Visual Servoing, Fixed Point, AOI-only, Vision IO, Landmark Alignment, and Object-based Calibration. Users can select the required applications according to their needs and execute jobs with diversified visual algorithm.

In addition to Vision IO and AOI-only identification, other applications can use "Find" module to position the base system to establish the relationship between the robot motion and the visual components. As shown in figure below, record point P1 on vision base system 2 and create relative relationship with the object to access object visually.

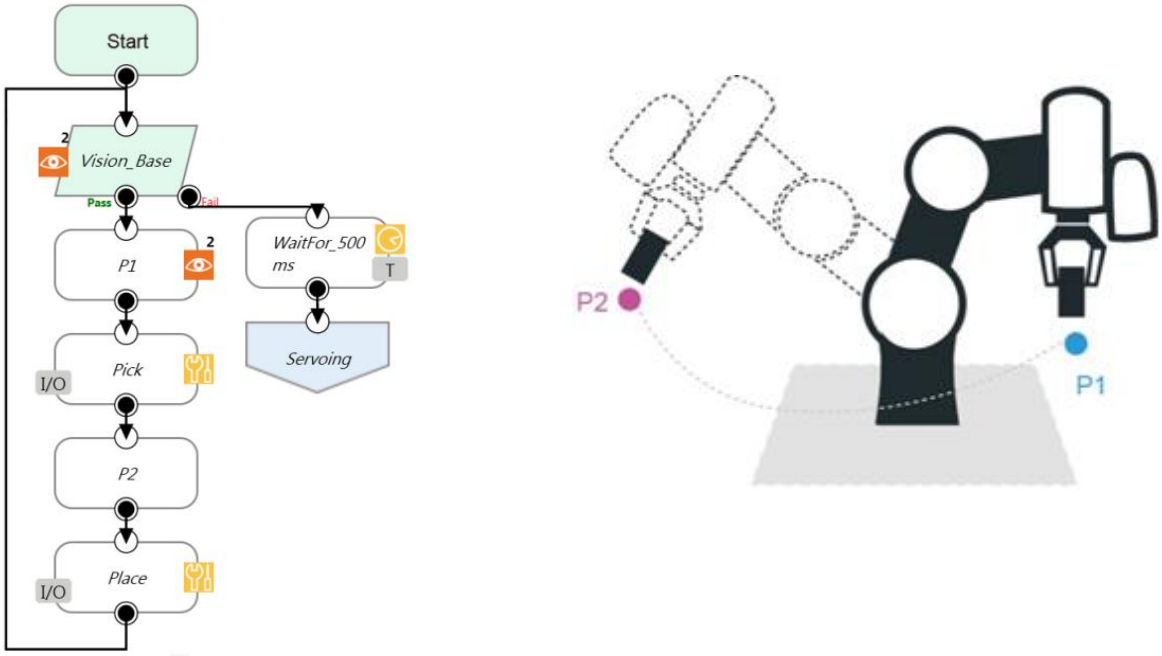


Figure 5: The Flow of Pick & Place

IMPORTANT:
When using a vision base system, select the current base system shown at the top right of TMflow as the vision base system.

NOTE:
In case of invalid selection, re-record the base system with the "Re-record on another base " in the Point Manger.

3.2 Select Application

Select the TMvision Task Designer in the work list and choose appropriate application according to intended use. Basic categories are as follows:

Applications	Suitable for hand-eye relationship	Workspace	Base system output
Fixed	Eye-in-Hand / Eye-to-Hand	✓	Create base system based on object position
Servoing	Eye-in-Hand	×	Create base system based on the robot position
AOI-only	Eye-in-Hand / Eye-to-Hand	×	×
Vision IO	Eye-in-Hand / Eye-to-Hand	×	×
Landmark Alignment	Eye-in-Hand	×	Create base system based on Landmark position
Object-based Calibration	Eye-in-Hand	×	Create base system based on object position

Table 5: Select Applications

Users can save vision images by setting criteria based on the results of object dections, recognitions, and mesurements. Images available to save include the original image (source image) and the last image taken (result image)..

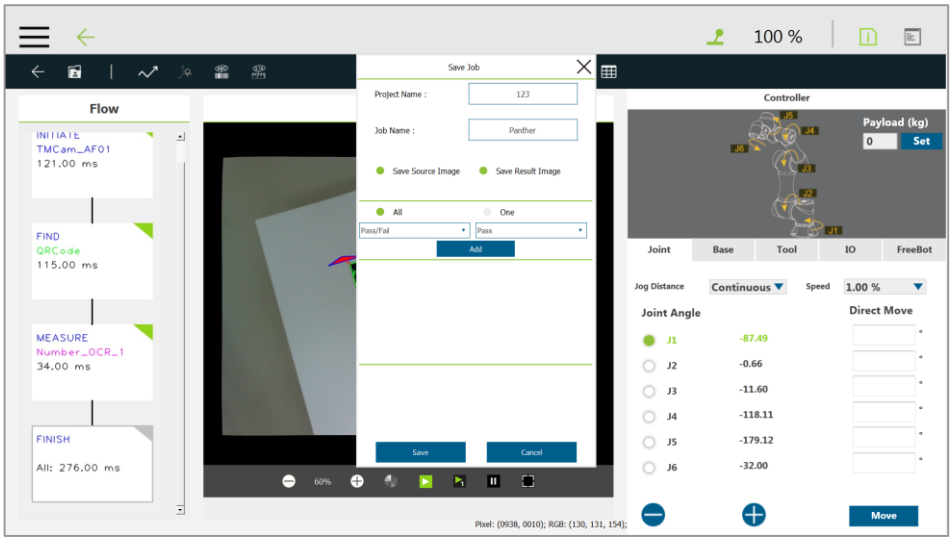


Figure 6: Save Vision Images Based on Results

3.2.1 Visual Servoing

Enter the TMvision Task Designer window and select visual servoing to use this function. Visual servoing is only suitable for eye-in-hand. Alignment is achieved by getting continuously closer to

the object's target coordinate on the image. Thus, the workspace does not need to be established. If the target angle come with wide variations, use a calibration board to conduct level calibration during the initial aligning. The servoing time is determined by the convergence interval and the robot movement path. This can be applied to situations where the relationship between the camera, workspace, and the robot can easily change due to changes in human action and the environment. After the level is calibrated, select the INITIATE on the left side of the Flow to conduct basic parameter settings. Setting parameters are as follows:

Name	Function
Adjust camera parameters	Includes shutter and focus for the built-in camera and contrast and white balance for extracted images. All modules feature auto once function. Click Save to validate change made after adjustment jobs ended.
Switch to record image	Use the internal TM SSD images for identification.
Start at initial position:	Check this to return the robot to its initial position before visual identification. Uncheck this and the robot will execute visual identification at the current position.
Lighting	Control light source switch at end of the robot.
Move to the initial position	Move the robot to the initial position
Reset initial position	Reset initial position of the robot
Idle for Robot Stablilization	Set the length of time manually or automtically to have the robot self-adjust before taking pictures.

Table 6: Visual Servoing Settings

After the basic parameters have been set, confirm that the image is clear and can be seen. Select the "Find" module at the top and use the pattern matching function to match the pattern's shape feature in the selected frame.

Once the matching patterns have been determined, TMvision will compare the image in the current field of view against the one in storage to compute shape features and identify differences between them as well as give scores for similarity determination. Users may set up appropriate thresholds to determine whether the two images are from the same object.

Exit and return to the flow chart once completed. You may set servoing target when there is at least one "Find" module in visual flow chart.

NOTE:
TMvision provides an easy feature editing function. In case patterns selected contain unnecessary features users can click "Edit pattern" icon to modify features of the pattern.

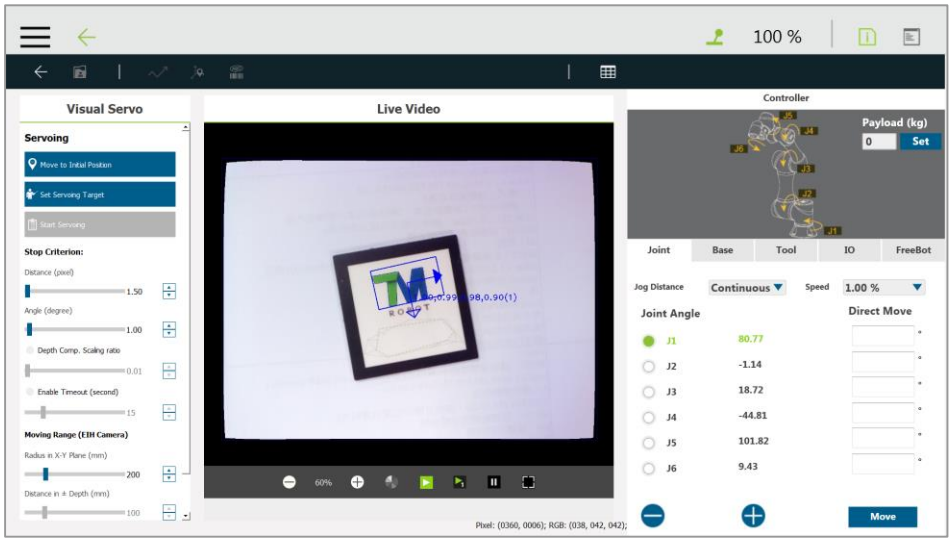


Figure 7: Visual Servoing

Parameters of the teaching page are described below:

Name	Function
Move to the initial position	Move the robot to the initial position
Distance (pixels)	When features distances between current and target object are less than or fall below the set value of the distance, it is judged convergent.
Angle	When features angles between current and target object fall below the set value of the angle, it is judged convergent.
Depth compensation	Whether or not to perform depth compensation based on the Scaling value of identification result.
Radius in X-Y plane	Stop the robot movement when the horizontal movement distance exceeds this value.
Distance in ± depth	The robot movement stops when vertical movement distance exceeds this value.
Set servoing target	Determine servo target position by clicking the button and options below. (1) Use current position (2) Locate target at image center
Start servoing	Click and hold to run the servoing object. Only save the results after successful servoing.
Stop Criterion	Use the sliders to configure the stop criteria of the **Distance**, the **Angle**, the **Depth**, and the length of **Timeout**.
Moving Range	Use the sliders to configure the ranges of the limitations in the **Radius**, the **Distance**, and the **Rotation** angle of the camera. If the camera goes beyond the range, the system will take the fail route and leave the **Vision** node.

Table 7: Parameters of the Teaching

After configuring the servoing target setting, click Start Servoing and press the (+) button on the robot stick to have TM Robot begin servoing the visual screen. Save the results once TMvision prompts servoing completed successfully.

3.2.2 Fixed Point

Enter the TMvision Task Designer window and select Fixed Point to use this function. The fixed point function is designed for EIH and ETH for the robot to calculate and position objects with absolute coordinates by creating workspaces. Accuracy varies with that of workspace calibration. See 2.2 Vision Base System Positioning Mode for details on creating workspaces. After choosing the workspace, use INITIATE in Flow on the left side to set basic parameters. Setting parameters are shown below:

Name	Function
Adjust camera parameters	Includes shutter and focus for the built-in camera and contrast and white balance for extracted images. All modules feature auto once function. Click Save to validate change made after adjustment jobs ended.
Switch to record image	Use the internal TM SSD images for identification.
Start at initial position	Check this to return the robot to its initial position before visual identification. Uncheck this and the robot will execute visual identification at the current position.
Move to the initial position	Move the robot to the initial position
Reset workspace	Reset the robot's workspace
Lighting	Turn camera light on/off.
Idle for Robot Stablilization	Set the length of time manually or automtically to have the robot self-adjust before taking pictures.
Snap-n-go	Enable to improve efficiency by concurrently taking snaps and keeping the flow going to save time for the following non-vision tasks. After the image has been captured, the system will go to the next node and keep the image processing in the background from the flow. Note that when the processes after the Vision node require the result from the Vision node and the background image processing is still on the run, there will be conditions and returns as below. ● If the next node requires the paramaters of the result such as the Boolean variables Done and Pass generated by the Vision job, users will have to edit an If node to judge for further operations. ● If the next node is also a Vision node which includes a Vision base point or a Vision job, the flow will not continue until it is done with the last Vision node.

Table 8: Fixed Point Settings

After configuring the basic camera parameters, select the "Find" module at the top and select the pattern matching function as shown below. TMvision will use the framed shaped feature to find its alignment on the image and build the visual base on the object.

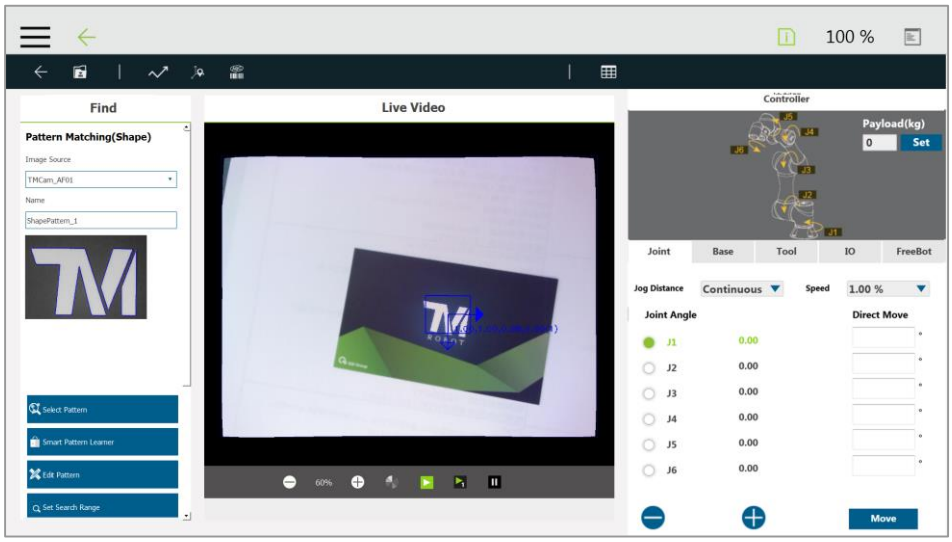


Figure 8: Fixed Point

Once the matching patterns have been determined, TMvision will compare the image in the current field of view against the one in storage to compute shape features and identify difference in between as well as give scores for similarity determination. Users may set up appropriate thresholds to determine whether the two images are from the same object. Save the results once the object is validated "Object is detectable and only ONE object is detected".

3.2.3 AOI-only

Enter the TMvision Task Designer and select AOI-only to use this function. The AOI-only identification is applicable to EIH or ETH to read Barcode/QR code, Color Classifier, and String Match without workspace and base system output. To identify a barcode, make sure there is only one clear and readable barcode in the framed region and use INITIATE on the leftside Flow to set basic parameters. The setting parameters are shown as below:

Name	Function
Adjust camera parameters	Includes shutter and focus for the built-in camera and contrast and white balance for extracted images. All modules feature auto once function. Click Save to validate change made after adjustment jobs ended.
Switch to record image	Use the internal TM SSD images for identification.
Start at initial position	Check this to return the robot to its initial position before visual identification. Uncheck this and the robot will execute visual identification at the current position.
Move to the initial position	Move the robot to the initial position
Reset workspace	Can reset the robot's workspace
Lighting	Control light source switch at end of the robot.

Name	Function
Idle for Robot Stablilization	Set the length of time manually or automtically to have the robot self-adjust before taking pictures.
Snap-n-go	Enable to improve efficiency by concurrently taking snaps and keeping the flow going to save time for the following non-vision tasks. After the image has been captured, the system will go to the next node and keep the image processing in the background from the flow. Note that when the processes after the Vision node require the result from the Vision node and the background image processing is still on the run, there will be conditions and returns as below. ● If the next node requires the paramaters of the result such as the Boolean variables Done and Pass generated by the Vision job, users will have to edit an If node to judge for further operations. ● If the next node is also a Vision node which includes a Vision base point or a Vision job, the flow will not continue until it is done with the last Vision node.

Table 9: AOI-only Settings

After setting the basic parameters, choose the pattern matching function in the Find module at the top to proceed with matching. The identification is for a specific region only but not for the entire visual field. Thus, users can utilize the Find module to adjust the identification region based on the comparative relationship between the change identification area of the object detection module and the initial visual points to find the object feature. Once the object feature is found, the object's barcode can be accurately idenfified. The barcode identification will output the identification result. Use the Display node to confirm the accuracy of the barcode.

3.2.4 Vision IO

Enter the TMvision Task Designer window and select Vision IO to use this function. When an obvious change occurs to the picture, the difference before and after the change can be used to determine whether a change has occurred to the Sensing Window. The Vision IO module views the camera as an IO module, and continuously monitors a specific area in the screen. When the area shows significant change in content, a trigger signal is sent to TMflow.

Startup method:

Task Designer → Vision IO

In comparision to the previous vision tasks in the flow, when selecting Vision IO at startup, users can set up in the prompt as shown in the left of the figure below.

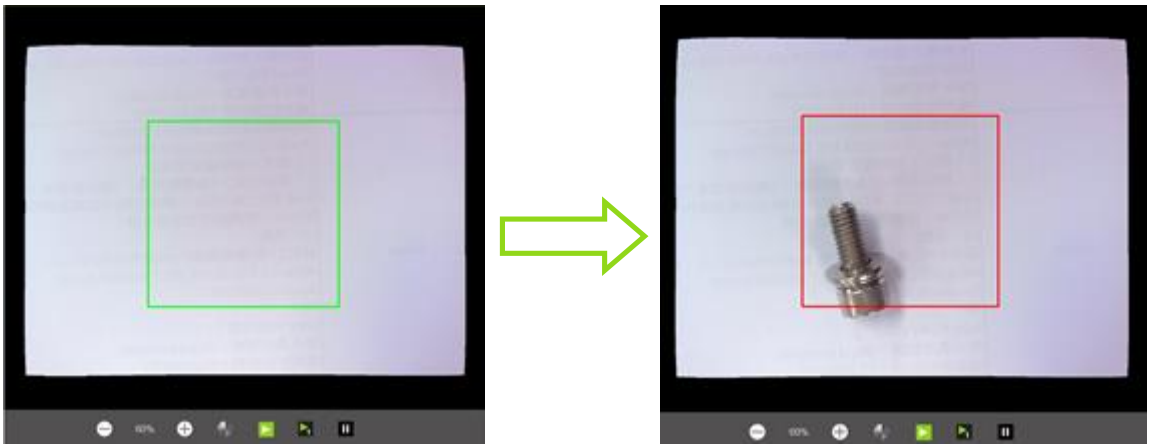


Figure 9: Vision IO

Name	Function
Move to Initial Position	Move the robot to the initial position
Rest Initial Position	Rese the initial position of the robot.
TimeOut	Set the time waiting for Vision IO. If the IO is not activated within the time limit, the process exits through the Fail path.
Set sensing window	Set a region in the live video as an area to monitor. After the setting is completed, if the level of variations goes over the threshold, it means that triggered event occurs.
Threshold	Trigger event sensitivity: The lower the threshold, the more sensitive.

Table 10: Vision IO Settings

3.2.5 Landmark Alignment

Enter the TMvision Task Designer window to select and use the Landmark Alignment function. Users may run this function with the official TM Landmark. This is meant to build subsequent teaching points on the base system added by the TM landmark.

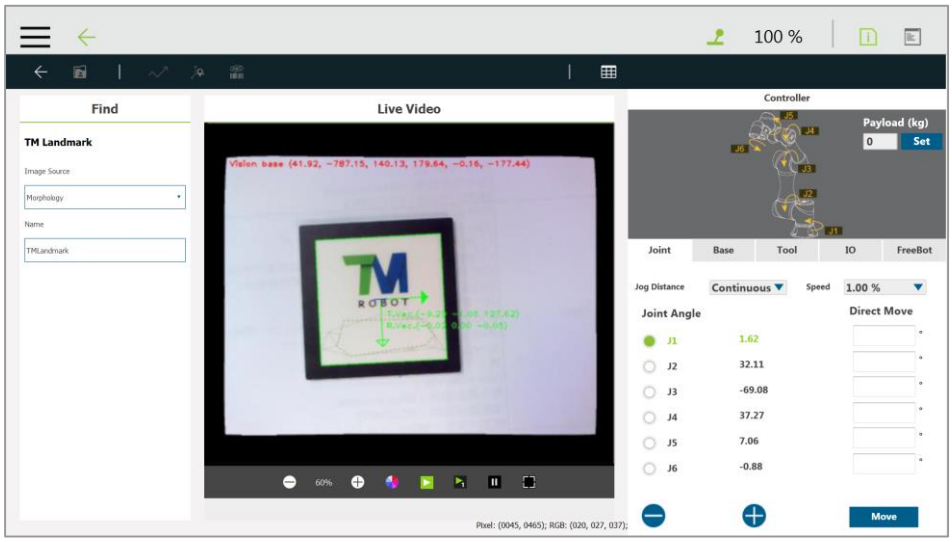


Figure 10: Landmark Alignment (1/2)

For points recorded on the robot base, it is required to teach all points again once the relative relationship between the robot and the object has changed. In the case that the vision base system is created through Landmark and the aligning point is based on the previous vision base system, once the relative relationship between the robot and the object has changed, it only takes the visual node execution to update the Landmark vision base system as an easy deployment.

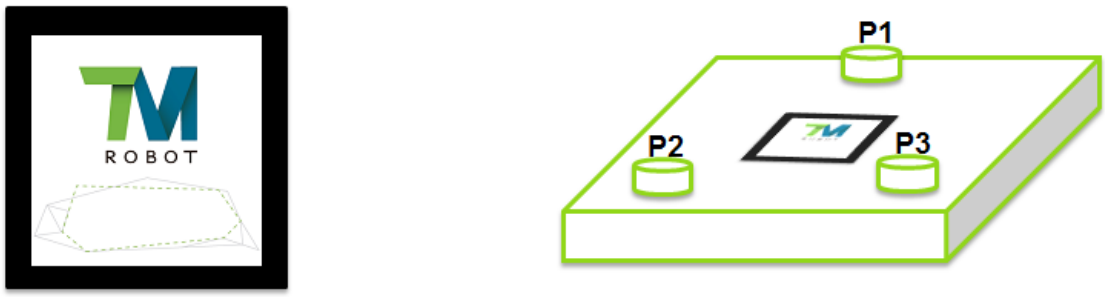


Figure 11: Landmark Alignment (2/2)

The Landmark Alignment parameter settings are as follows.

Name	Function
Adjust camera parameters	Includes shutter and focus for the built-in camera and contrast and white balance for extracted images. All modules feature Auto once function. Click Save to validate change made after adjustment jobs ended.
Switch to record image	Use the internal TM SSD images for identification.
Start at initial position	Check this to return the robot to its initial position before visual identification. Uncheck this and the robot will execute visual identification at the current position.
Move to the initial position	Move the robot to the initial position
Reset workspace	Can reset the robot's workspace
Lighting	Turn camera light on/off.
Idle for Robot Stablilization	Set the length of time manually or automtically to have the robot self-adjust before taking pictures.
Snap-n-go	Enable to improve efficiency by concurrently taking snaps and keeping the flow going to save time for the following non-vision tasks. After the image has been captured, the system will go to the next node and keep the image processing in the background from the flow. Note that when the processes after the Vision node require the result from the Vision node and the background image processing is still on the run, there will be conditions and returns as below. ● If the next node requires the paramaters of the result such as the Boolean variables Done and Pass generated by the Vision job, users will have to edit an If node to judge for further operations. ● If the next node is also a Vision node which includes a Vision base point or a Vision job, the flow will not continue until it is done with the last Vision node.

Table 11: The Fixed Settings

NOTE:
Users can add Enhance, Identify, and Measure modules to the Landmark Alignment flows for the use of flexibility.

3.2.6 Object-based Calibration

The object-based calibration is applicable to EIH only, which employs the difference in the robot servoing movement to calculate relative relationship in between the object and the robot without workspace creation. In case the positioning target angle comes with larger variations, it is required to run the horizontal calibration with the calibration plate before determining the initial position. This function delivers high precision on objects with simpler shapes as the fixed-point base system directly built on the object to reduce the errors of the height measurements by the calibration plate.When the horizontal calibration is completed, click Find module to select Pattern Matching(Shape) apart from Pattern Matching(Image), Blob Finder, Anchor, and Fiducial Mark

Matching for TMvision to frame the shape.

Once the matching patterns have been determined, TMvision will compare the image in the current field of view against the one in storage to compute shape features and identify differences between them as well as give scores for similarity determination. Users may set up appropriate thresholds to determine whether the two images are from the same object. Exit and return to the flow chart once completed. Once edited and there is at least one "Find" module in the visual flow chart, click CALIBRATION to perform object-based calibration.

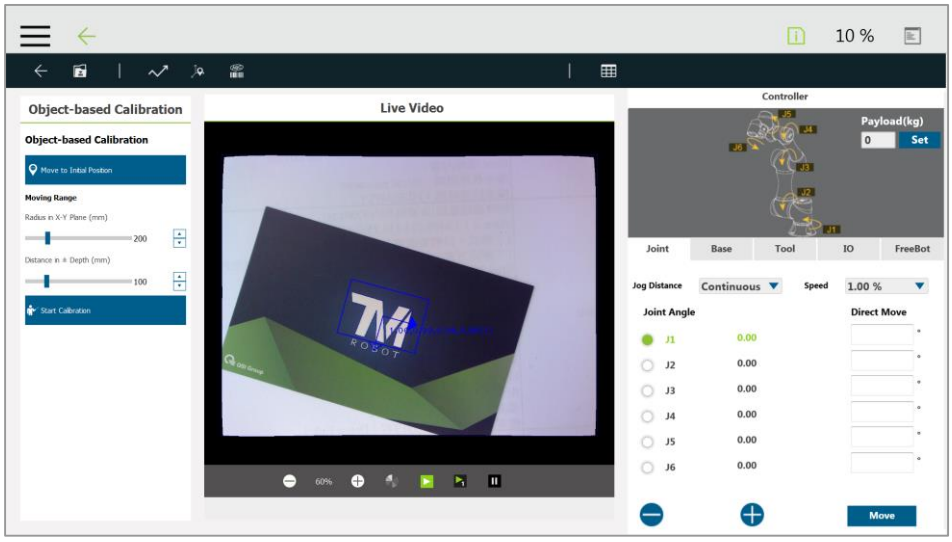


Figure 12: Object-Based Calibration

Name	Function
Move to the initial position	Move the robot to the initial position
Radius in X-Y plane	When the horizontal moving distance exceeds this value, stop the robot movement.
Distance in ± depth	When the vertical moving distance exceeds this value, stop the robot movement.
Start calibration	Click and hold to the **+** button on the robot stick to servo the object. The robot will move four times to place object at each of the four corners of image field to complete the action. Only save the file after the robot successfully ended the aforementioned actions.

Table 12: Object-Based Calibration Settings

3.3 Function list

The TM Robot Vision Designer provides three module functions: Enhance, Find and Identify.

3.3.1 Enhance

Image enhance module provides multiple functions to enhance image features and improve successful project identification in special application environment.

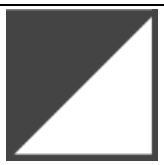
Function module	Function description
Contrast Enhancement 	Adjust image contrast.
Color Plane Extraction 	Obtain specific colors (such as red, blue, or green) or saturation.
Smoothing 	Filter out the noise and increase the image's smoothness.
Thresholding 	Transform raw image into a black/white one.
Morphology 	Erode, dilate, patch, or open the image.
Flip 	Flip the image.

Table 13: Function List – Enhance

3.3.1.1 Contrast Enhancement

Adjust image brightness and contrast to enhance the contrast between object and background to improve accuracy of object detection.

When the contrast between the region of interest (ROI) against the background is poor, you may enhance it with this module to improve the success rate of object comparison. Users are advised to maximize differences in between brightness of foreground and background by adjusting the contrast value. Then adjust the gamma value to brighten the bright area and dim the dark area.

Enhance settings	Function description
Image source	Switch among source image modules
Contrast	Adjust contrast. Adjust in the negative direction for a negative image.
Brightness	Adjust brightness
Gamma	Adjust image gamma value
Reset	Reset parameters
Color plane	Select specific color plane for adjustment.
Lookup Table	Conversion curve for the input and output
Histogram	Image's histogram

Table 14: Function List – Enhance (Contrast Enhancement)

3.3.1.2 Color Plane Extraction

Users can extract a specific color plane from an image or convert the color plane from RGB space to HSV space. With the expressions on the different color planes of the objects and the backgrounds, users can choose the appropriate color plane to increase the contrast between the object and the background and improve the detection accuracy.

The object search module basically operates in a grayscale space. Inputted color images are converted into grayscale. Users may use this module to convert image into color space of the best foreground/background difference to improve object identification reliability.

Enhance settings	Function description
Image source	Switch among source image modules
Color plane	The color plane to extract: - Gray - Red - Green - Blue - Hue - Saturation - Value
Histogram	Image's histogram

Table 15: Function List – Enhance (Color Plane Extraction)

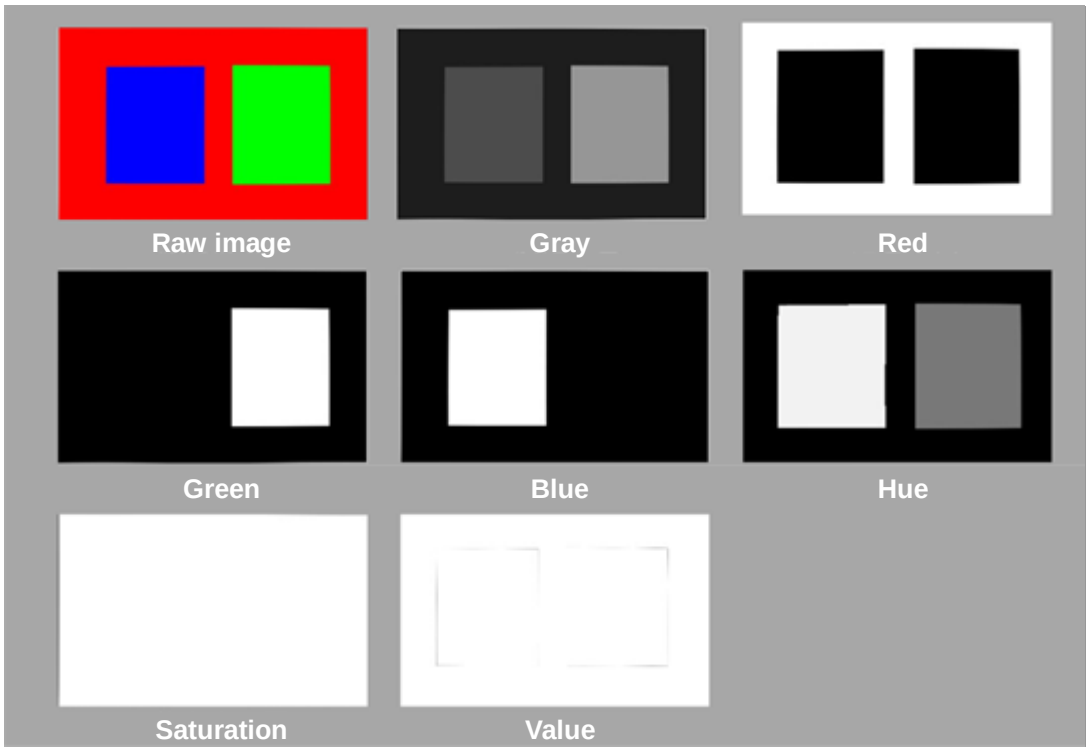


Table 16: Function List – Enhance (Color Plane Extraction – Color Plane)

3.3.1.3 Smoothing

Enhance settings	Function description
Image source	Switch among source image modules
Filter type	Select filter type: - Mean Filter - Gaussian filter - Median filter
Mask size	Regarding mask size: larger mask size shall result in a smoothing effect in a greater region where the median filter shall adjust width parameters only.

Table 17: Function List – Enhance (Smoothing)

3.3.1.4 Thresholding

Set the gray value of pixels larger than upper threshold to gray value upper limit and the one smaller than the lower threshold to gray value lower limit, and simplify the color scale of image.

Enhance settings	Function description
Image source	Switch among source image modules
Threshold type	Binary: If higher than threshold, set as white. If lower, then set as black. Binary (Inverted): Set to black if higher than threshold. Otherwise, set to white. Truncated: If higher than threshold, set equal to threshold. To Zero: If lower than threshold, set as zero. To Zero (Inverted): If higher than threshold, set as zero.

Table 18: Function List – Enhance (Thresholding)

3.3.1.5 Morphology

Morphology computing is often applied to binarize images closing or opening effect to current image for noise removal or connecting broken foreground objects.

Enhance settings	Function description
Image source	Switch among source image modules
Operation type	Dilation: Expand the white area. Erosion: Erode white areas. Opening: Erode the white area before dilating it to open connected weak sides or remove broken fractures. Closing: Dilate the white area before eroding it to patch up broken faces or voids. Gradient: Deduct image after erosion from the one after dilation to single out the edge area.
Structuring element	Rectangle Cross Ellipse
Element size	Operands of larger size would apply morphological computing in a larger area
Iteration	Number of repeated operations

Table 19: Function List – Enhance (Morphology)

3.3.1.6 Flip

This module can be used to flip the image.

Enhance settings	Function description
Image source	Switch among source image modules
Rotation Direction	Vertical, horizontal.

Table 20: Function List – Enhance (Flip)

3.3.2 Find

Function module	Function description	Output (floating point)
Pattern Matching (Shape) 	The object geometry based object detection function locates the object's shape features in the image.	Relative to coordinates X, Y and rotation angle R of image home (upper left).
Pattern Matching (Image) 	Locate object in the image based on its pixel value distribution features.	Relative to coordinates X, Y and rotation angle R of image home (upper left).
Blob Finder 	Identify foreground object by color difference between the object and the background.	Relative to coordinates X, Y and rotation angle R of image home (upper left).
Anchor 	Change home coordinates of object detection by manually adjusting the anchor point.	Relative to coordinates X, Y and rotation angle R of image home (upper left).
Fiducial Mark Matching 	Use the two obvious feature regions on the object for alignment.	Relative to coordinates X, Y and rotation angle R of image home (upper left).

Table 21: Function List – Find

3.3.2.1 Flow

The left side of the vision programming flow chart shows the computing flow of vision tasks. The highlighted bold frame indicates the process now in focus. The green frame indicates the process functions successfully, and the orange frame indicates the process functions unsuccessfully.

IMPORTANT

IMPORTANT:
Only when none of the processes is in the orange frame in the flow can the project be saved.

3.3.2.2 Pattern Matching(Shape)

The module uses the geometrical shape of the object as its pattern model and matches it to the input image to align the object in the image. It supports variations due to object rotation and dimension. It is more applicable for application with rigid profiles.

Name	Function description
Pattern Selection	After selection, this image will pop out. Users can select the object in the image.
Smart Pattern Learner	To create fast visual extract tasks with process learning the pattern model. Step 1: Add object search module (shape), click "Smart Pattern Learner". Step 2: Shoot background. Step 3: To shoot a workpiece, press Next to identify the target object once it gets located. Step 4: Adjust the threshold, internal distance, and external distance. Step 5: Press Next to exit the Smart Pattern Learner.
Pattern editor	Click and the edit window pops up for you to edit shape feature of the object.
Set search range	After selecting, users can set the position range of the object in the image, to rotate range and shrink/enlarge range. Improve identification efficiency by setting up a reasonable identification scope in Set Search Range.
Num. of Pyramid Layers	Pyramid Layers: The more the layers are, the less the search time will be. However, for workpieces come with excessive details, the details may get discarded easily resulting in detection errors.
Min. Score	Object can be determined only when the score of the detection result is higher than the minimum setting.
Max. Num. of Objects	The maximum number of objects that can be detected in the screen.
Sorted by:	When the maximum number of objects is greater than 1, the outputs will be sorted according to the setting of this field.
Directional Edge	Select whether the shape edge is directional.

Table 22: Function List – Find (Patten Matching (Shape))

IMPORTANT

IMPORTANT:

- Search range: Set rotation angle smaller for symmetrical objects , e.g. rectangles (-90~90), squares (-45~45), and circles (0~1).
- Num. of Pyramid Layers are directly linked with speed of pattern matching computing algorithm. The algorithm matches layers from top down. As an additional layer is added, the pixel resolution is halved, but the search speed is up. The frequently used value for the layers falls between 3 and 5. Users may set up according to characteristics of pattern edge feature. Set fewer layers for more feature details, or set more layers for less processing time.
- Smaller minimum scores reduces omissions from judgments at the cost of more misjudgments. Frequently used values fall between 0.75 and 0.85.

Pattern

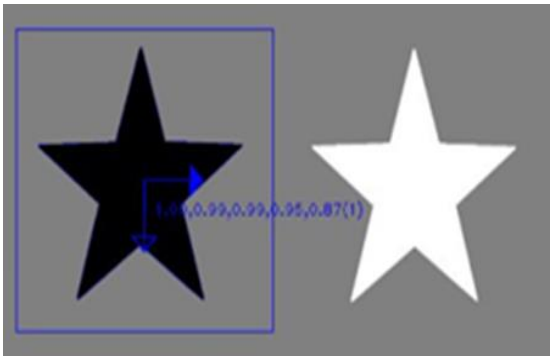
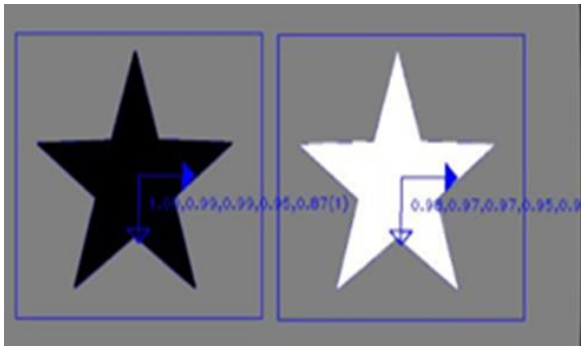

Check Directional Edge	Uncheck Directional Edge
	

Table 23: Function List –Find (Patten Matching (Shape))

NOTE:
The pattern matching algorithm determines matching of objects based on strength and directions of object edges. Edge direction refers to whether the edge is from shallow to deep or from deep to shallow. When the parameter of a directional edge is checked, the direction shall influence the identification result (stars on the left side get detected). Otherwise, both stars will be detected.

3.3.2.3 Pattern Matching(Image)

This module uses the image of the target object itself as its pattern model and matches it to the input image to position the object in the image. It supports variations due to object shift and rotation. Differing from shape pattern matching, this function does not support dimension changes and may take a long time to compute. It may be employed when the workpiece lacks visible features or has fuzzy edges.

Name	Function description
Pattern Selection	After selection, this image will pop out. Users can select the object in the image.
Set search range	After selecting, users can set the position range of the object in the image, to rotate range and scaling range. Improve identification efficiency by setting up a reasonable identification scope in Set Search Range.
Num. of Pyramid Layers	More layers means that the search time can be significantly reduced. However, if the workpiece has too many details, the details can be easily erased and cause detection errors.
Min. Score	If the score of the detection result is higher than this minimum score, the system will determine this as the object.
Max. Num. of Objects	The maximum number of objects that can be detected in the screen.
Similarity Metric	Users can pick the most appropriate measuring method from among the "Correlation Coefficient" or "Absolute Difference" methods. The former has a slower speed, but is tolerant of ambient light differences, and the light and shadow changing ability is stronger.
Sorted by:	When the maximum number of objects is greater than 1, the output result will be sorted according to the setting in this column.

Table 24: Function List – Find (Patten Matching (Image))

IMPORTANT:

- Search range: Set rotation angle smaller for symmetrical objects , e.g. rectangles (-90~90), squares (-45~45), and circles (0~1).
- Num. of Pyramid Layers are directly linked with speed of pattern matching computing algorithm. The algorithm matches layers from top down. As an additional layer is added, the pixel resolution is halved, but the search speed is up. The frequently used value for the layers falls between 3 and 5. Users may set up according to characteristics of pattern edge feature. Set fewer layers for more feature details, or set more layers for less processing time.
- Smaller minimum scores reduces omissions from judgments at the cost of more misjudgments. Frequently used values fall between 0.75 and 0.85.

3.3.2.4 Blob Finder

Differing from detecting workpiece of fixed geometry by pattern matching, those without fixed geometry shall rely on this module for detection.

Name	Function description
Set search range	Set effective detection range
Color plane	Choose color space to use
Extract color	Click and enclose color of ROI on image.
Red, green, blue Plane	Distribution range of ROI color
Area size	To set up area of foreground scope: Regions with points of foreground pixel group fall beyond the scope shall be discarded.
Max. Num. of Objects	The maximum number of objects that can be detected in the screen.
Sorted by:	When the maximum number of objects is greater than 1, the outputs will be sorted according to the setting of this field.

Table 25: Function List – Find (Blob Finder)

3.3.2.5 Anchor

The anchor module is aimed to set the initial position and the orientation of the object base system. Users can find out objects with a Find module, and the default base system of the objects is marked with blue arrows, which is for users to anchor a point at the end of the flow to set the initial position and the orientation of the object base system such as setting the initial position to the top left vertex and parallel to the black frame to have the vision base orient with the anchor.

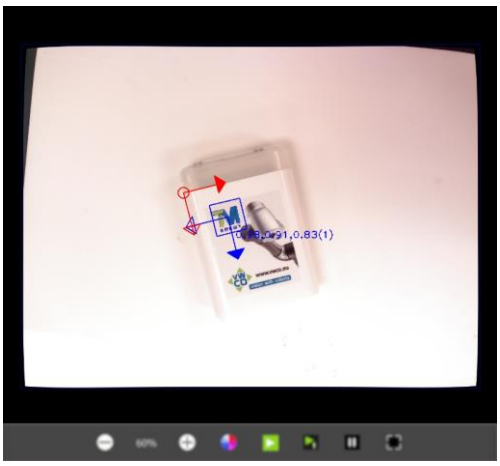


Figure 13: Anchor

NOTE:
The hollow arrow denotes the X direction, and the solid arrow denotes the Y direction.

Name	Function description
Manual adjustment	Manually drag the anchor point to the target position.
X direction shift (pixels)	Change the anchor position to the X direction of home point.
Y direction shift (pixels)	Change the anchor position to the Y direction of home point.
Rotation	Change the anchor of home point.

Table 26: Function List – Find (Anchor)

3.3.2.6 Fiducial Mark Matching

The Fiducial Mark Matching function is designed to detect and position the two positioning points on PCBs. It is fast and reliable. However, this function suffers from a smaller search range and lower success rate when the object zoomed or rotated. For example, this function is suitable for PCB operation, which features little shift in feeding position and requires quick and accurate positioning.

Name	Function description
Set fiducial marks	Set two anchor points on the image in sequence
Set search range	Set search range of the two anchor points on the image in sequence
Threshold	Set matching threshold
Similarity Metric	Users can pick the most appropriate measuring method from among the "Correlation Coefficient" or "Absolute Difference" methods. The former has a slower speed, but is tolerant of ambient light differences, and the light and shadow changing ability is stronger.

Table 27: Function List – Find (Fiducial Mark Matching)

3.3.2.7 One Shot Get All

This function creates multiple sets of independent processes for one visual task by taking one shot to output multiple-objects and multiple-sets of identification results to save a lot of repetitive computing time as only one shot is required.

This feature supports fixed-point positioning, AOI identification only object search modules, and ETH "Pick'n Place" module.

Step 1: Create a visual object search process module such as Find > Pattern Matching (Shape).

Step 2: Select the INITIATE process, but do not open it.

Step 3: Add another visual object search process module to make the One Shot Get All menu appear.

Step 4: Select Parallel to add independent search processes in parallel to each other, or select Cascade to add process modules one after the other.

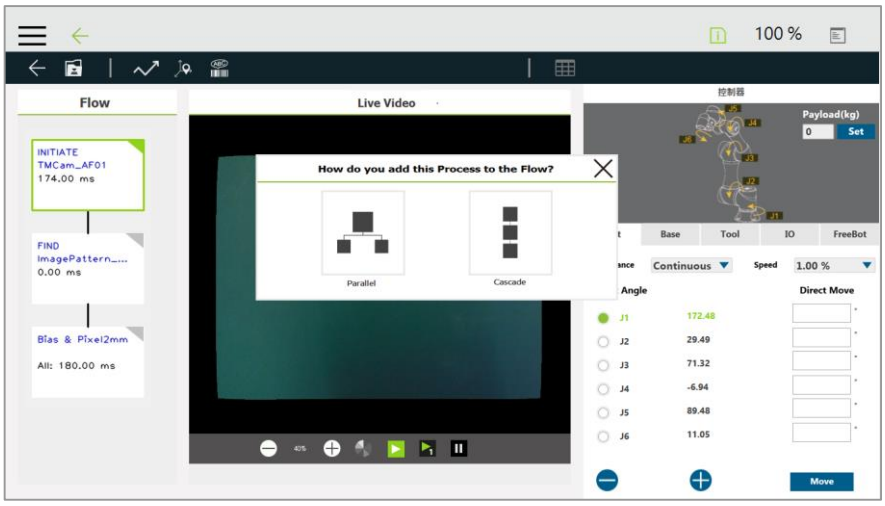


Figure 14: One Shot Get All (1/4)

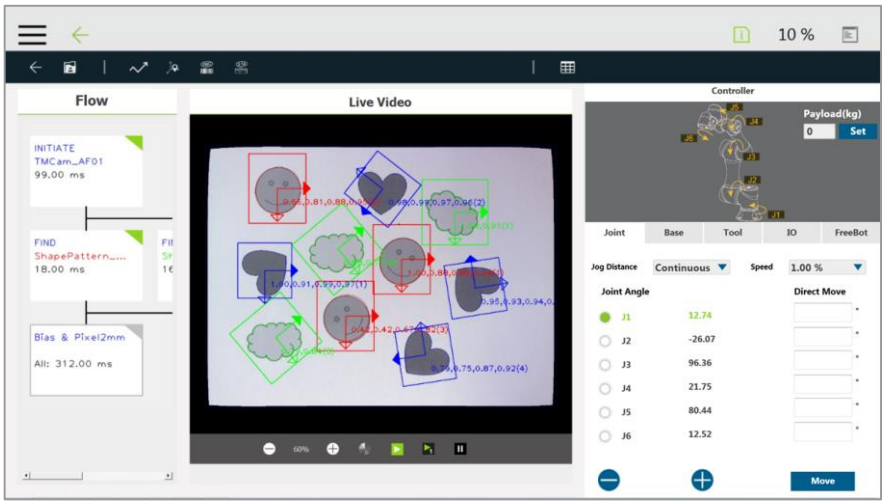


Figure 15: One Shot Get All (2/4)

Step 5: Saving the vision job. Vision jobs can be saved subject to the conditions of "Object is detectable and only ONE object is detected", i.e. only one of the objects shall be and can be found.

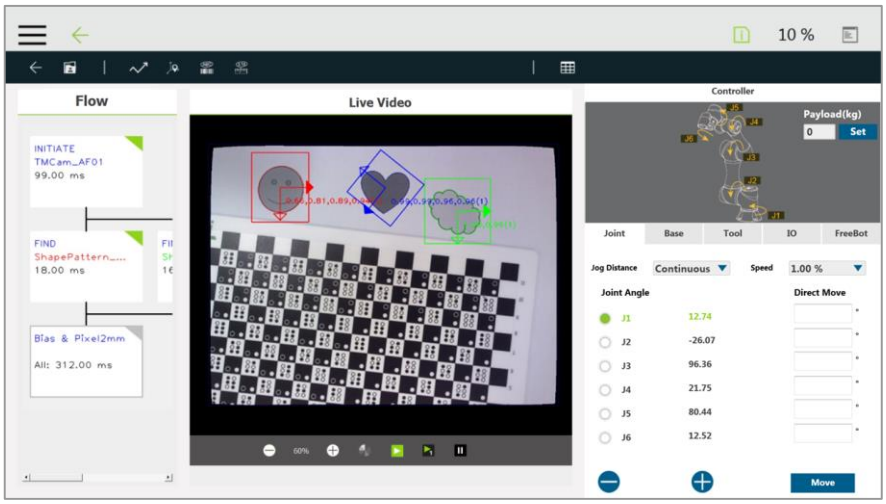


Figure 16: One Shot Get All (3/4)

The vision job generates N sets of the vision base after finished, they generate, and each set of the vision base comes with variables var_MAX and var_IDX as the maximum number of the object searching and the current base index respectively.

By taking one single shot to capture multiple objects, objects can be picked and places in sequence with batches. As shown below, after passing the vision node, the individual maximum number of the object searching and the individual current base index will be renewed. As one job finishes, the base index variable var_IDX proceeds the action +1 with

the SET node to denote a job completed and compares with var_MAX in the IF node. If var_IDX equals to var_MAX, it means the job is done with the object and will search for the next object in order until all jobs are done.

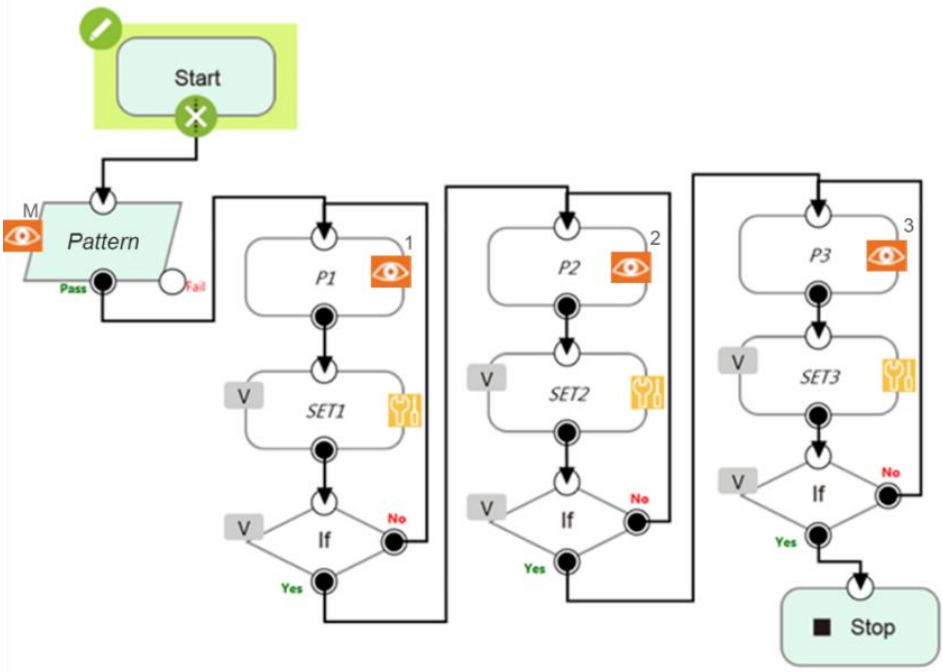


Figure 17: One Shot Get All (4/4)

3.3.3 Identify

This module provides two basic functions: Barcode and color identification with string output once successfully identified. Users may compile processes in TMflow with output of results.

Function module	Function description	Output (floating point)
Barcode / QR code	Read the barcode, the 2D DataMatrix, or the QR code.	Failure in retrieving or executing string or barcode readings shall result in output “” (empty string).
Color Classifier	Color classifier	Users set the characters for the string and for the training.
String Match	Compare strings	Matching results customized by users

Table 28: Function List – Identify

3.3.3.1 Barcode / QR Code

This function supports the decoding of 1-D barcode, QR code and 2-D DataMatrix. The user frame selects the barcode region in the Set Barcode Range for the identification. Regarding barcodes in white symbols on black background: You may select "Enhance" (and set Alpha

value to -1) to invert the image before identifying it.

IMPORTANT:
Make sure there is only one clear barcode in the area for reading.

Barcode / QR code supported:

1D Barcode Type	Minimum bar width (pixel)	Minimum bar height (pixel)
EAN-8	2	8
EAN-13	2	8
UPC-A	2	8
UPC-E	2	8
CODE 128	2	2
CODE 39	2	2
CODE 93	2	2
Interleaved 2 of 5	2	2

Table 29: Function List – Identify (Supported Barcodes)

2D Barcode Type	Minimum block size (pixel)
QR code	4 x 4
Data Matrix	6 x 6

Table 30: Function List – Identify (Supported QR codes)

3.3.3.2 Color Classifier

This function assists users in dealing with a color identification. Users are required to set up color classification area and select the color feature area for identification before clicking Next to initiate the training process. In addition, users are required to place patterns of different colors as prompted and name each color during the training process. Once trained successfully, the TMvision can classify color of the object to its most suitable category. Click Parameter Adjustement to set RGB and HSV parameters for each color in the list with the sliders, and click OK to update paramaters or Reset to cancel.

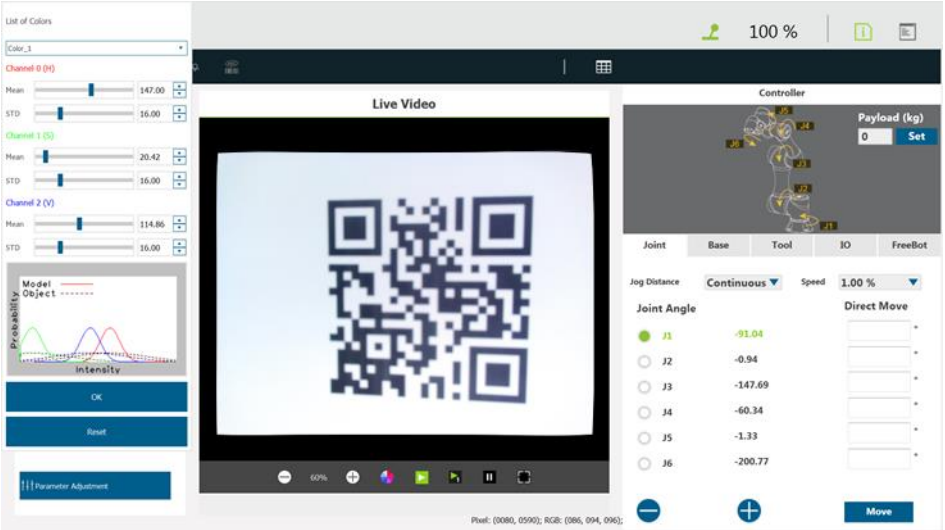


Figure 18: Color Classifier

3.3.3.3 String Match

This function compares strings from sources in the flow or with a fixed string set by users, and generates the matching customizable results for further applcations. In String 1, users can select the source in the Connected To dropdown, or check Fixed String and fill a desired string in the field below. Repeat the same process for String 2. Finally, customize the messages with color to output as the results for Match or Mismatch.

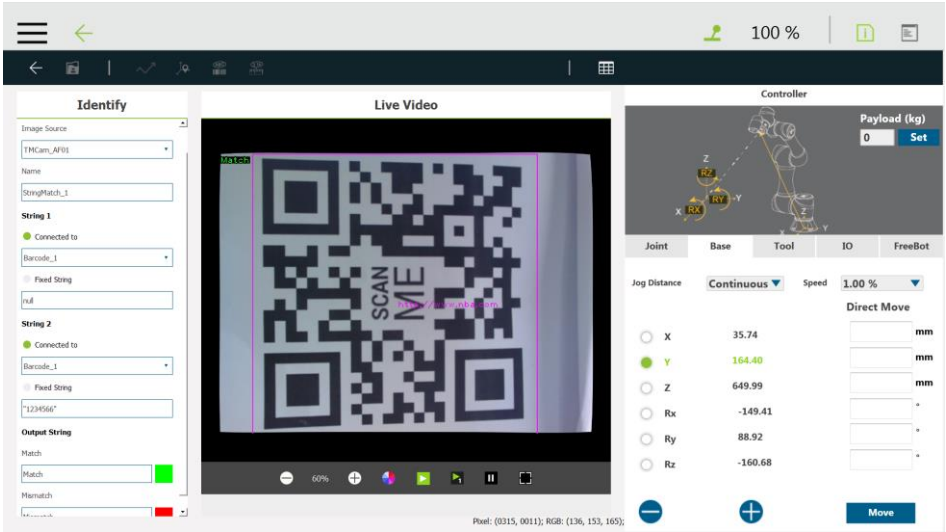


Figure 19: String Match

4. TM External Camera

4.1 Overview

TM external camera is the TMvision's licensed software module requires the purchase and can support connections up to two external cameras at the same time. TMvision also provides a support tool to help users adjust the external camera's various parameters. External cameras can be used for all TMvision tasks except servoing. There is also an alignment compensation function that is divided into the eye-to-hand or upward-looking camera according to application. The following introduces various camera types and related settings.

4.2 Types of Camera Supported

Brand	Type	Specification	Remark
BASLER	acA2500-14gc/gm	GigE (14 fps at 5 MP) Rolling Shutter	
	acA 2500-20gc/gm	GigE (14 fps at 5 MP) Global Shutter	
	acA 2440-20gc/gm	GigE (23 fps at 5 MP) Global Shutter	
	acA 3800-10gc/gm	GigE (10 fps at 10 MP) Rolling Shutter	HW 3.0 only
	acA 4024-8gc/gm	GigE (8 fps at 12.2 MP) Rolling Shutter	HW 3.0 only

Table 31: Types of Camera Supported

4.3 External Camera Installation Procedure

Step 1:	Enter TM Flow -> System setting -> Network setting.
Step 2:	Select "Static IP" and enter the following settings. Click Confirm. Set IP address: use either 192.168.61.101 or 192.168.88.102 subnet mask: 255.255.255.0 Default gateway: 0.0.0.0
Step 3:	Enter the Setting page -> Visual setting -> left side "Camera list" on a blank spot, click the right mouse button -> select "Detect GigE Camera".
Step 4:	Wait for the camera detection to refresh -> left side "Camera list" on a blank spot, click the right mouse button -> select "Refresh Camera List".
Step 5:	GigE camera complete and the camera appears on the camera list. The camera will show "Unknown" at this time.
Step 6:	Once the user completes the steps in the implementation section 4.4 Calibrating the

External Camera, the external camera function will be activated.

IMPORTANT:
Ensure the camera is connected to the control box's network outlet and the signal light is on.

4.4 Calibrating the External Camera

Once the external camera has been connected, the user needs to calibrate the external camera and choose between the eye-to-hand or upward-looking mode for the external camera. This establishes the corresponding position between the external camera and the eye-in-hand camera, as well as calibrates the external camera's internal parameters.

4.4.1 ETH Camera Calibration

	Manual Calibration:	**Automatic Calibration:**
Step 1:	Select the "Unknown" external camera at the left side camera list to establish a new vision job, and then select “calibrate camera”.	
	When the menu presents, select "Eye-to-Hand" and then choose manual calibration.	When the menu presents, select "Eye-to-Hand" and then choose automatic calibration.
Step 2:	Calibrate the eye-to-hand camera's internal parameters. Move the calibration plate in the indentifiable range of the camera. Click "Next Step" and repeat this step 15 times with different calibration plate positions and angles. Click "Next Step" when done.	
Step 3:	Click “Next Step” to build a workspace.	
Step 4:	Set and select the tool center of the Calibration Set. Click "Next Step" when done.	Calibrate workspace. Move the eye-in-hand camera to within the visual range of the calibration plate. Calibrate the eye-in-hand and eye-to-hand camera's external parameters and relative relationship. Click "Next Step" when done.
Step 5:	Calibrate the eye-in-hand and eye-to-hand camera's external parameters and relative relationship. A red dot will appear at the top of the calibration plate	Save the calibration result.

	screen. Point to the red dot on the calibration plate using the TCP. Repeat this step and select "Next Step" to complete the calibration.	
Step 6:	Save the calibration result.	

4.4.2 Upward-looking Camera Calibration

	Manual Calibration:	**Automatic Calibration:**
Step 1:	Select the "Unknown" external camera on the left side camera list to establish a new vision job, and the then select “calibrate camera”.	
	When the menu presents, select "Upward-looking" and choose manual calibration.	When the menu presents, select "Upward-looking" and choose automatic calibration.
Step 2:	Calibrate the upward-looking camera's internal parameters. Fix the calibration plate to the end of the robot and move the calibration plate to a range identifiable to the camera. Click "Next Step" and repeat this step 15 times with different calibration plate positions and angles. Click "Next Step" when done.	Fix the calibration plate to the end of the robot. Choose the tool center and set the initial position. Click "Next Step" when done.
Step 3:	Move the calibration plate to a height appropriate for identifying the object. Click "Next Step" when done. Start automatically setting of the workspace.	Calibrate the upward-looking camera's internal parameters. Click "Next Step" when done.
Step 4:	Calibrate workspace. Click "Next Step" when done.	
Step 5:	Save the calibration result.	

IMPORTANT

IMPORTANT:
Before performing manual calibration, use the calibration set to calibrate the appropriate tool center. Make sure the tolerance is less than 0.3mm, and then use the calibration set to click the intersection at the top of the calibration plate.

4.5 Lens Setting

Lens selection has a large impact on image quality. Generally, the lens center is closer to the real image, but the areas around the center are usually not clear enough or bright enough and can be easily

distorted. We recommend that when the user chooses a lens, the user should adjust the focus and the aperture based on the size of the workpiece.

4.5.1 Focus / Aperture

The camera kit provides focus and aperture adjustment functions. This can help users adjust externally connected industrial camera's aperture and focus to the most appropriate position and obtain the clearest image quality. Focus and aperture adjustment page's "Focus Flow" displays the camera's focus status. "Aperture Flow" displays the aperture adjustment status. The X-axis represents the time and the Y-axis represents the score that changes with time. The red line represents the previous highest value. The user can adjust the focus adjustment ring and the aperture adjustment ring on the camera lens to see the values on the corresponding flow change. The user should adjust the aperture and the focus to make the value (black line) reach the maximum value (red line). This is the most appropriate aperture and focus.

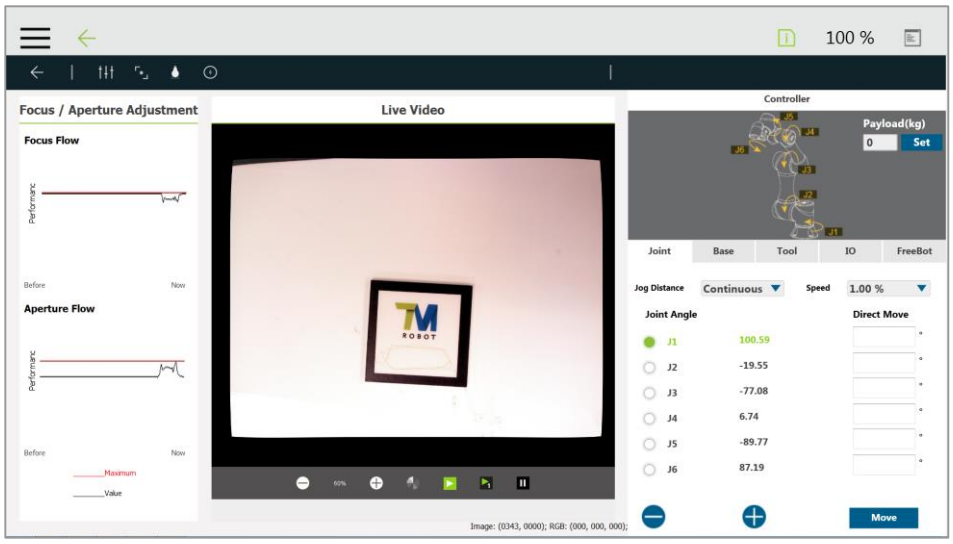


Figure 20: Focus/Aperture

4.6 Eye-to-Hand

Not only can TMvision integrate internal vision, but also match to the supported external cameras to feed the obtained information back to the robot. This operation allows the robot motion to synchronize with camera shooting and decreases the flow cycle. An illustration of the eye-to-hand camera configuration is as shown below.

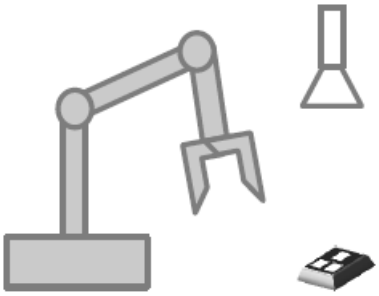


Figure 21: Eye-to-Hand

4.6.1 Pick'n Place

Pick'n Place, as one of the most common uses of Eye-to-Hand, is the fixed position application for the eye-to-hand function. This function uses the establishment of a workspace so that the robot can use the absolute coordinates to calculate and position objects. Its precision is determined by the calibration accuracy of the workspace. For details on fixed positioning and building a workspace, refer to 3.2.2 Fixed and 2.2 Vision Base System Positioning Mode. In addition, the external camera can be used to complete more tasks. For example, TMvision can use the external camera to implement "Fixed function" or use the combination of external camera and internal camera to achieve other applications.

4.6.2 AOI-only / Vision IO

The eye-to-hand module supports the AOI-only with Vision IO function. For details, refer to 3.2.3 AOI-only and 3.2.4 Vision IO.

4.7 Upward-Looking

The TMvision upward-looking function uses the relationship between the base and the robot obtained by placing the calibration plate on the object. Command is given to the robot based on the identified feature to move to the object's position of the first upward-looking teaching. This corrects the position deviation of the object caused by claw or suction nozzle instability. In addition, the upward-looking module supports AOI-only and Vision IO function. The following is an illustration of the upward-looking camera's setting.

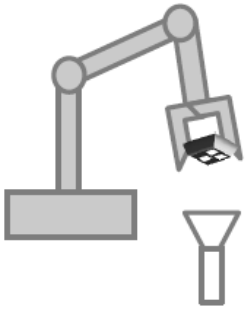


Figure 22: Upward-Looking

4.7.1 Alignment Compensation

The alignment compensation function allows the user to use the upward-looking camera to position the workpiece and to establish a vision tool center. This function compensates the workpiece's X and Y-axis coordinates' deviation and rotation angles' deviation for each item grab or suction. This means that even if the user caused a workpiece deviation during the pick'n place, the user can still accurately place the workpiece at the correct position.

Step 1:	Establish a new vision job and choose the upward-looking module.
Step 2:	Select alignment compensation, move to the initial position, and establish object detection.
Step 3:	Save job to automatically form a vision tool center.
Step 4:	Now the alignment compensation function can be used. Use this vision tool center to establish points. Even if the workpiece grabbing position deviates when moving to the point position the next time, the function can still compensate the workpiece position and accurately move to point.

4.7.2 AOI-only / Vision IO

The upward-looking module supports the AOI-only and Vision IO function. For details, refer to 3.2.3 AOI-only and 3.2.4 Vision IO.

IMPORTANT

IMPORTANT:

- When calibrating or conducting alignment compensation, pay attention to the stability of the calibration plate or object. If the object or calibration plate moves significantly when the robot moves the object, this object is not suitable for alignment compensation and the object grabbing method needs to be improved.
- Set the tool center position before calibration. The closer the tool center position is to the object plane the more accurate it is.

5. TM OCR

5.1 Overview

TM OCR is the TMvision's licensed software module requires the purchase that provides user with a simple operating interface to set OCR jobs. OCR is divided into OCR and Number OCR. Measurement, identification, and TM OCR function can be used through the menu at the top of the TMvision setting interface. TM OCR supports the eye-in-hand camera and external cameras. If an external camera (eye-to-hand, upward-looking) needs to be matched to conduct OCR identification, activation of the external camera is required. For the activation and the use of the external camera, refer to Chapter 4. TM External Camera.

5.2 OCR

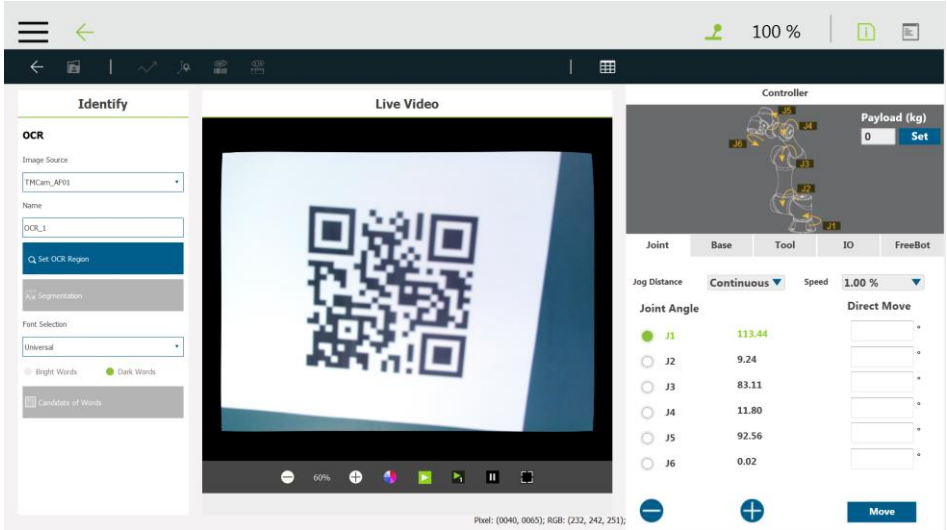


Figure 23: OCR

5.2.1 Support Content

- OCR function can output the identification results in strings.
- OCR supports 9 common fonts and their bold format (Regular 400, **Bold 700**) shown in the table below.

Font	Type
san-serifs	Courier New, Lucida Bright, Times New Roman
non san-serifs	Arial, Verdana, MS Gothic
monospaced font	Consolas, OCR A Extended, OcrB

Table 32: OCR Supported Fonts

- OCR supports 94 printable characters ranging from ASCII codes 21_{hex} to $7E_{hex}$ including letters, digits, punctuation marks, and a few miscellaneous symbols.

- OCR identification area is a single line. Characters go from left to right in a straight line or a curve. A single line contains 32 characters at max.

5.2.2 Parameter Setting Interface

Name	Function description
Image source	Choose image source.
Name	Name the task.
Set OCR Region	After selecting, users can set the position range of the object in the image, to rotate range and shrink/enlarge range.
Segmentation	Adjust character segmentation parameters.
Font Selection	Choose the font of the region to be identified.
White text/black background or black text/white background	Choose White text/black background or black text/white background.
Candidate Characters Menu	Output according to the selected character list. Eliminate other similar characters.

Table 33: OCR Parameter Setttings

5.2.2.1 Setting Identification Region

Identification region can be divided into rectangles or curves. Drag the frame over the desired region to adjust the size of the identification region. Click the rotate symbol on the edge of the frame to rotate the identification region. The arrow on the edge of the frame represents the direction the characters are written. When using the curved region, single click the arrow to switch the direction of the arrow in correspondence to the concave or convex curved characters.

5.2.2.2 Segmentation

Name	Function description
Bounding Rect Width	Character width must be within this range.
Bounding Rect Height	Character height must be within this range.
Min Char Spacing	Characters are combined when character spacing is lower than this value.
Char Fragment Overlap	Characters are combined when the character overlap ratio exceeds this value.
Min Char Aspect Ratio	Character height divided by width. Characters are segmented if it is lower than this value.
Tilt-angle	Angle correction. Turn tilted characters upright.

Table 34: OCR Parameter Setttings – Segmentation

5.2.2.3 Font Selection

TMvision provides 4 trained types for users to choose from, Universal (94 characters), Universal_Digit (numeral 0~9), Universal_UpperCase (Latin alphabet (A~Z)), Universal_LoweCase (Latin alphabet (a~z))

5.2.2.4 Candidate Characters Menu

Candidate characters can be set in the candidate character menu. Characters in black indicate candidate characters, and characters in grey indicate eliminated characters. The identification result does not output eliminated characters. Users can use @ (all), $ (numeral), # (upper case), * (lower case), or % (symbol) to list and combine possible candidate character combinations. The first symbol in the combination represents the candidate character of the first character, the second symbol represents the candidate character of the second character, and so on.

5.3 Number OCR

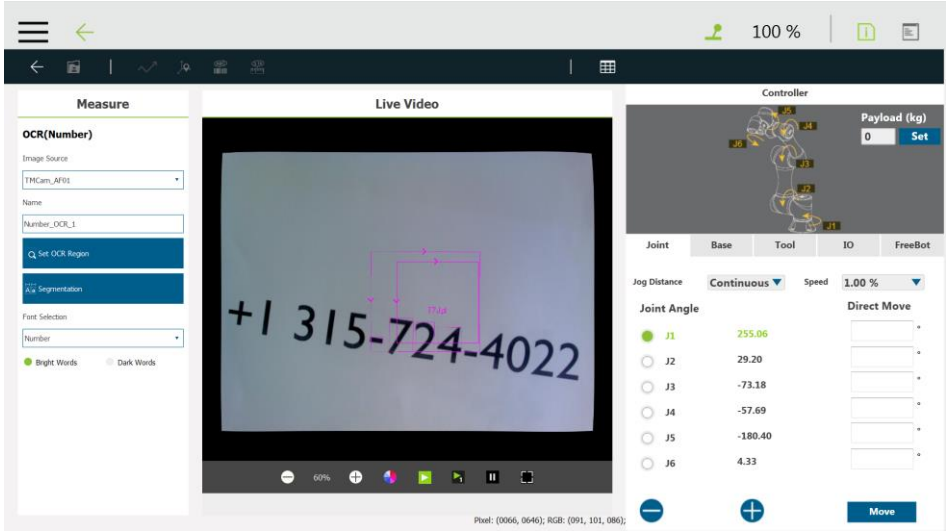


Figure 24: Number OCR

5.3.1 Support Content

- Number OCR function can output identification result in floating-point numbers.

Font	Type
san-serifs	Courier New, Lucida Bright, Times New Roman
non san-serifs	Arial, Verdana, MS Gothic
monospaced font	Consolas, OCR A Extended, OcrB

Table 35: Number OCR Supported Fonts

- Support Seven-segment-display.
- Supports 12 types of characters, including numbers (**0**~**9**), **-** , and **.** to determine positive, negative, the numbers, and the decimal point.
- Identification region is a single line. Characters go from left to right in a straight line or a curve. The output numeral range is valid for 7 digits as the single-precision floating-point format.

5.3.2 Parameter Setting Interface

Name	Function description
Image source	Choose image source.
Name	Name the task.
Set OCR Region	After selecting, users can set the position range of the object in the image, to rotate range and shrink/enlarge range.
Segmentation	Adjust character segmentation parameters.
Font Selection	Choose the font of the region to be identified.
White text/black background or black text/white background	Choose white text/black background or black text/white background.

Table 36: Number OCR Parameter Setttings

5.3.2.1 Setting Identification Region

The identification region can be divided into rectangles or curves. Drag the frame over the desired region to adjust the size of the identification region. Click the rotate symbol on the edge of the frame to rotate the identification region. The arrow on the edge of the frame represents the direction the characters are written. When using the curved region, single click the arrow to switch the direction of the arrow in correspondence to the concave or convex curved characters.

5.3.2.2 Segmentation

Name	Function description
Bounding Rect Width	Character width must be within this range.
Bounding Rect Height	Character height must be within this range.
Min Char Spacing	Characters are combined when character spacing is lower than this value.
Char Fragment Overlap	Characters are combined when the character overlap ratio exceeds this value.

Min Char Aspect Ratio	Character height divided by width. Characters are segmented if it is lower than this value.
Tilt-angle	Angle correction. Turn tilted characters upright.

Table 37: OCR Parameter Setttings – Segmentation

5.3.2.3 Font Selection

The Number OCR provides two font models for the user to choose from, Number and seven-segment-display. While Number font model includes the OCR fonts and seven-segment display font model, seven-segment-display font model adopts font Digital Counter 7 and font Ticking Timebomb BB for reading only.

6. TM Identify & Measure

TM Identify & Measure is a TMvision licensed software module requires the purchase. In addition to standard Color classifier and Barcode identification, licensed identify functions are: Pose Variation(Shape), Pose Variation(Image), Specific Color Area Size, Subtract Reference Image, Line Burr, and Circle Bur. Measurement Module functions are: Counting(Shape), Counting(Image), Counting(Blobs), Counting(Edges), and Gauge.

6.1 Identify

Traditional manual inspection can lead to error issues caused by personnel fatigue or negligence. The TMvision identification function can provide comprehensive improvement. The menu at the top of the TMvision setting interface can be used to add idenfity functiosn to the vision flow. The following describes the various functions in detail.

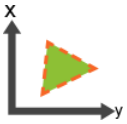
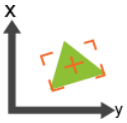
Function module	Output (floating point)
Pose Variation(Shape) 	String. Output TMflow variation "OK" or "NG" according to conditions.
Pose Variation(Image) 	String. Output TMflow variation "OK" or "NG" according to conditions.
Specific Color Area Size 	String. Output TMflow variation "OK" or "NG" according to conditions.
Subtract Reference Image 	String. Output TMflow variation "OK" or "NG" according to conditions.
Line Burr 	String. Output TMflow variation "OK" or "NG" according to conditions.
Circle Burr 	String. Output TMflow variation "OK" or "NG" according to conditions.

Table 38: Identification Functions

6.1.1 Pose Variation(Shape)

This module uses the object's shape feature to calculate variation and askewness to determine

whether the object's level of pose change is within the decision range. This can be used to inspect whether the label position on the product has changed or is askew.

Name	Function description
Image source	Choose image source.
Name	Name the task.
Pattern Selection	After clicking, this image window will pop up. The user can select items from the image.
Edit Pattern	Click and the edit window pops up for you to edit shape feature of the object.
Set search range	After selecting, users can set the position range of the object in the image, to rotate range and shrink/enlarge range.
Num. of Pyramid Layers	More layers means that the search time can be significantly reduced. However, if the workpiece has too many details, the details can be easily erased and cause detection errors.
Min. Score	Object can be determined only when the score of the detection result is higher than the minimum setting.
Directional Edge	Select whether the shape edge is directional.
Decision	Pose's X-variation: X-direction's allowable shift deviation. Pose's Y-variation: Y-direction's allowable shift deviation. Pose's angle variation: Angle's allowable rotation deviation.

Table 39: Pose Variation (Shape) Functions

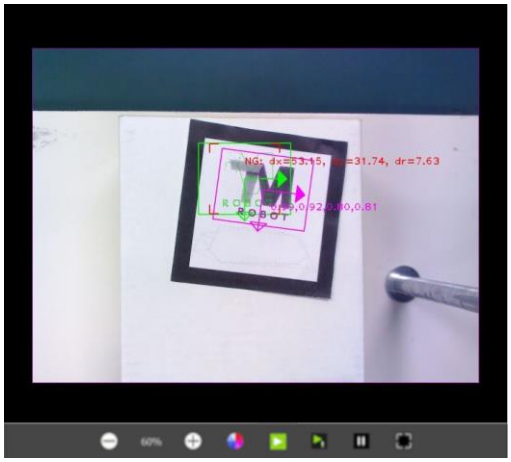
OK	NG
	

Table 40: Pose Variation (Shape) Examples

6.1.2 Pose Variation(Image)

This module uses the object's image feature to calculate variation and askewness to determine whether the object's level of pose change is within the decision range.

Name	Function description
Image source	Choose image source.
Name	Name the task.

Name	Function description
Pattern Selection	After clicking, this image window will pop up. The user can select items from the image.
Edit Pattern	Click and the edit window pops up for you to edit shape feature of the object.
Set search range	After selecting, users can set the position range of the object in the image, to rotate range and shrink/enlarge range.
Num. of Pyramid Layers	More layers means that the search time can be significantly reduced. However, if the workpiece has too many details, the details can be easily erased and cause detection errors.
Min. Score	Object can be determined only when the score of the detection result is higher than the minimum setting.
Similarity Metric	The user can use the "Correlation Coefficient" or the "Absolute Difference" to select the most appropriate measuring method. The former is slower, but it can resist environmental lighting and has stronger light and shadow change capability.
Decision	Pose's X-variation: X-direction's allowable shift deviation. Pose's Y-variation: Y-direction's allowable shift deviation. Pose's angle variation: Angle's allowable rotation deviation.

Table 41: Pose Variation (Image) Functions

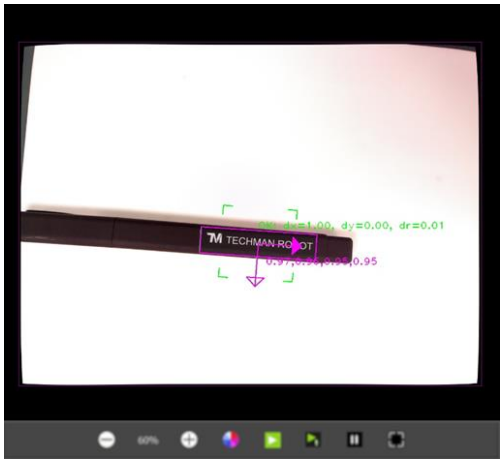
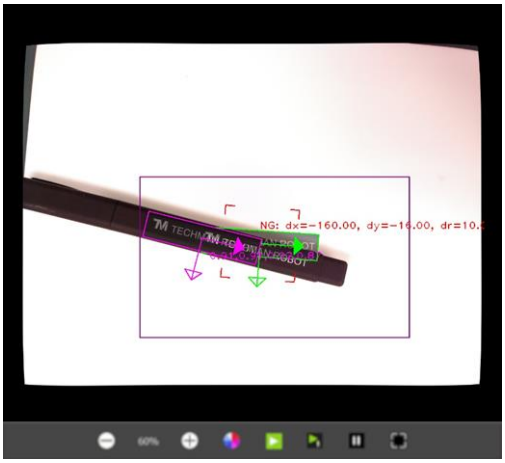
OK	NG
	

Table 42: Pose Variation (Image) Example

6.1.3 Specific Color Area Size

This module uses the object's color area to determine whether the size of the area is within the decision range.

Name	Function description
Image source	Choose image source.
Name	Name the task.
Select ROI	After clicking, this window will pop up. The user can select the region to be detected on the image.

Name	Function description
Add region to be omitted	Click to set the region to be omitted. The area within the range will not be added to the decision.
Color plane	Choose RGB or HSV color space.
Extract color	After clicking, this image window will appear. The user can select the color region to be detected on the image.
Red/Hue	Adjust the color feature's red/hue value to be detected.
Blue/Saturation	Adjust the color feature's blue/saturation value to be detected.
Green/Value	Adjust the color feature's green/value to be detected.
Decision	Area size: The total colored area in this range determined to be OK.

Table 43: Specific Color Area Functions

This example detects whether the liquid capacity in the container reaches the standard.

OK	NG
	

Table 44: Specific Color Area Size Example

6.1.4 Subtract Reference Image

This module uses the difference between the source image and the reference image to calculate whether the quantity of the defects conform to the defect size is in the range of the decision.

Name	Function description
Image source	Choose image source.
Name	Name the task.
Select ROI	After clicking, this image window will pop up. The user can choose the reference image on this image.
Add Region to be Omitted	Clicking can set the region to be omitted. Defects within the range will not be included in the decision.
Intensity Threshold	Only differences with the reference image's gray value larger than this value will be included in the defect area.
Defect Area Size	Only defect area in this range will be included in the defect quantity.
Decision	Defect quantity: Total defect quantity in this range is determined to be OK.
Bounding Box	Select this function to show the defect position with a bounding box.
Deburring	Remove the image edge or erroneous determination caused by pattern matching.
Local Alignment	Enhance stability of recognition in case the object is too small to detect by correcting the position and the angular deviation. The compensate range of the position and the ange are ±5 pixels and ±5°, respectively.
Element Size	Remove the burr calculation element size.

Table 45: Subtract Reference Image Functions

This example shows the detection of whether the product printing has defects.

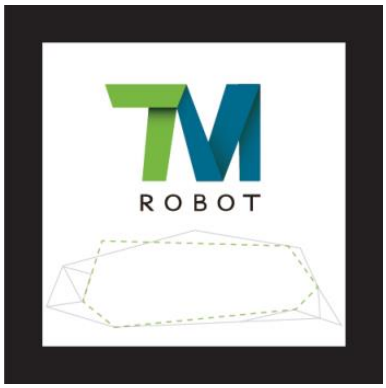
Reference image	Defect image	Detection result image
		

Table 46: Subtract Reference Image Example

IMPORTANT:
When the "Find" module caused a position error, the burr on the edge will be erroneously determined as damage. The user can select the deburring function. The larger the element size the greater the calculation range.

6.1.5 Line Burr

This module uses the differences between the detected edge and the ideal straight line distance to calculate whether the total defect area is within the decision range.

Name	Function description
Image source	Choose image source.
Name	Name the task.
Select ROI	After clicking, this window will pop up. The user can select the region to be detected on the image.
Scan Direction	Detect the edge's brightness change direction. After choosing the ROI, the frame will show the detection direction.
Intensity Threshold	Only gray value threshold differences larger than this value will be detected.
Distance(Pixel)	Only differences with the ideal straight line distance larger than this value will be included in the defect area.
Decision	Defect area size: Total defect area in this range is determined to be OK.
Detection Specification	Defect points at most take up 30% of the detected straight line to ensure the stability of the detected straight line.

Table 47: Line Burr Functions

This example detects whether the part's edge has burrs or defects.

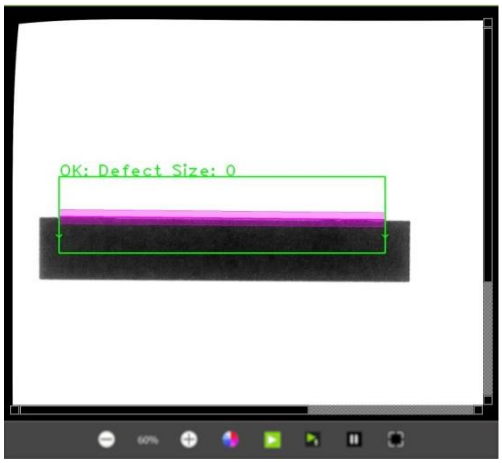
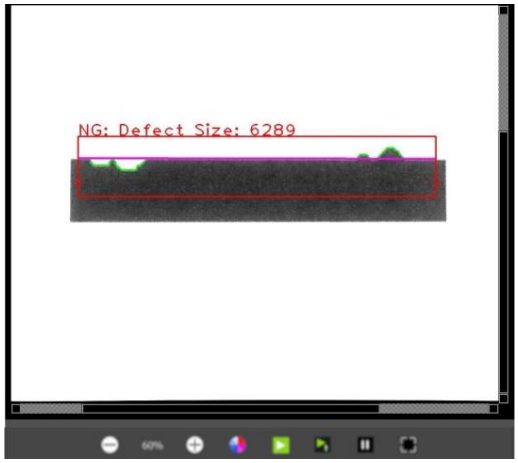
	
OK	NG

Table 48: Line Burr Example

6.1.6 Circle Burr

This module uses the differences between the detected edge and the ideal circular radial distance to calculate whether the total defect area is in the decision range.

Name	Function description
Image source	Choose image source.
Name	Name the task.
Select ROI	After clicking, this window will pop up. The user can select the region to be detected on the image.
Intensity Threshold	Only threshold differences greater than this value will be detected.
Detection angle	The spacing angle of the detected edge points.
Distance(Pixel)	Only differences with the ideal circular radial distance greater than this value will be included in the defect area.

Decision	Defect area size: Total defect area in this range is determined to be OK.
Detection specification	Defect points take up at most 25% of the detected round to ensure the stability of the detected round.

Table 49: Circle Burr Functions

This example is detecting whether the edge of the detected round object has burrs or defects.

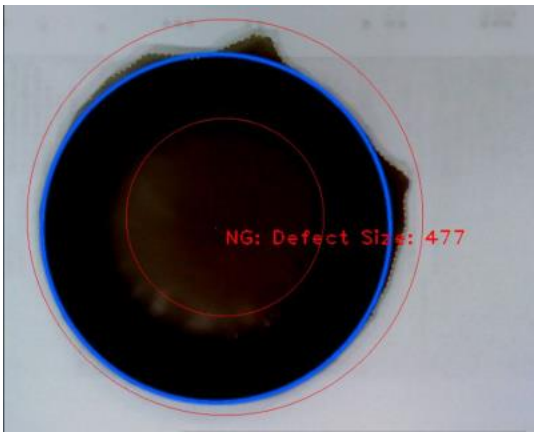


Figure 25: Circle Burr Example

6.2 Measuring

The object measurement module is TMvision licensed software. Select the menu at the top of the TMvision setting interface to add the measurement function to the vision Flow. TMvision measurement module can be used to calculate the object's quantity and the image's geometric position and angle, as well as make measurements. The measurement results are outputted as variations. The user can match the TMflow logic node according to the variations to check whether the measurement results conform to regulations. The user can pre-set the flow according to the results. The following describes this functions in detail.

Function module	Output (floating point)
Counting(Shape) 	Value, object quantity. When the object cannot be found, the output of TMflow variation is 0.
Counting(Image) 	Value, object quantity. When the object cannot be found, the output of TMflow variation is 0.
Counting(Blobs) 	Value, object quantity. When the object cannot be found, the output of TMflow variation is 0.

Counting(Edges)		Value, object quantity. When the object cannot be found, the output of TMflow variation is 0.
Gauge		Value, object quantity. When measurement cannot be done, the output TMflow variation is -1.

Table 50: Measuring Functions

6.2.1 Counting(Shape)

Name	Function description
Image source	Choose image source.
Name	Name the task.
Pattern Selection	After clicking, this image window will pop up. The user can select items from the image.
Edit Pattern	Click and the edit window pops up for you to edit shape feature of the object.
Set search range	After selecting, users can set the position range of the object in the image, to rotate range and shrink/enlarge range.
Num. of Pyramid Layers	More layers means that the search time can be significantly reduced. However, if the workpiece has too many details, the details can be easily erased and cause detection errors.
Min. Score	Object can be determined only when the score of the detection result is higher than the minimum setting.
Directional Edge	Select whether the shape edge is directional.

Table 51: Counting (Shape) Functions

The following example uses the shape feature to detect product quantity (This example first uses morphology operation to retain the shape of the object in the image. This eliminates the inability to detect the object because of differences in product printing).

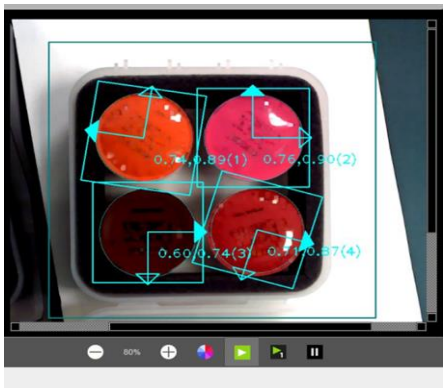
	
Pattern Selection	**Identifiable object**

Table 52: Counting (Shape) Example

6.2.2 Counting(Image)

The following example uses the image feature to detect the correct number of printings.

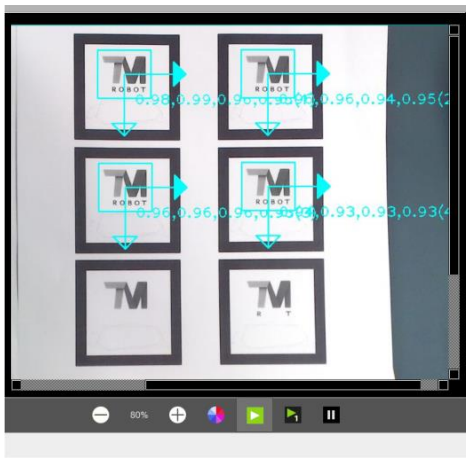


Figure 26: Counting (Image) Example

6.2.3 Counting(Blobs)

This module uses the object's color and area feature to calculate the number of irregular objects in the image.

Name	Function description
Image source	Choose image source.
Name	Name the task.
Select ROI	After clicking, this window will pop up. The user can select the region to be detected on the image.
Add Region to be Omitted	Click to set the region to be omitted. The area within the range will not be added to the decision.
Color Plane	Choose RGB or HSV color space.
Extract Color	After clicking, this image window will appear. The user can select the color region to be detected on the image.
Red/Hue	Adjust the color feature's red/hue value to be detected.
Blue/Saturation	Adjust the color feature's blue/saturation value to be detected.
Green/Value	Adjust the color feature's green/value to be detected.
Area Size	Only color area in this value range will be included in the quantity.

Table 53: Counting (Blobs) Functions

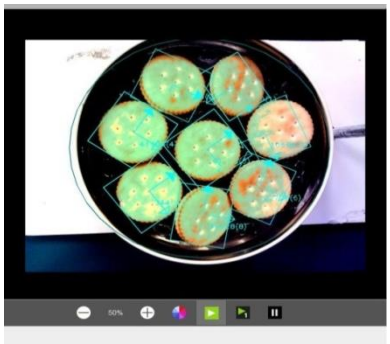
	
Pattern Selection	**Identifiable object**

Table 54: Counting (Blobs) Example

6.2.4 Counting(Edges)

Use the detection of part edge to calculate the number of parts.

Name	Function description
Image source	Choose image source.
Name	Name the task.
Select ROI	After clicking, this window will pop up. The user can select the region to be detected on the image.
Scan direction	Detect the edge's brightness change direction. After choosing the ROI, the frame will show the detection direction.
Intensity Threshold	Only threshold differences greater than this value will be detected.
Search width (pixel)	The spacing distance of the search edge.
Search angle	The searchable edge angle.

Table 55: Counting (Edges) Functions

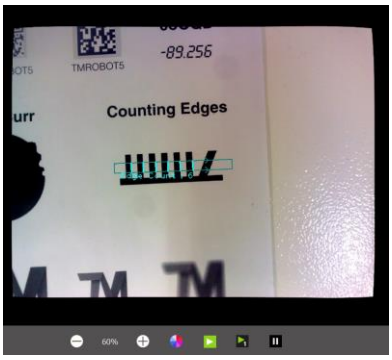
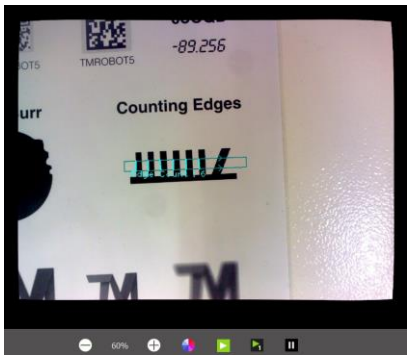
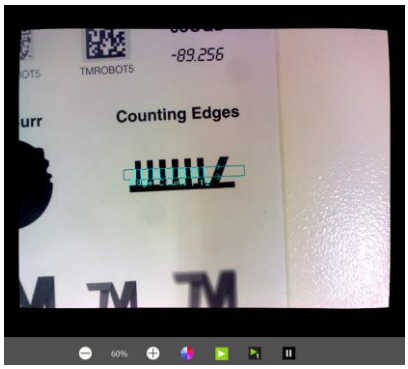
		
Dark to light	**Light to dark**	**Dual direction**

Table 56: Counting (Edges) Examples

NOTE:
Based on the camera resolution, the theoretical maximum number of edges that can be detected is 1296 in vertical.

6.2.5 Gauge

This module can add new anchors, straight lines, round shapes, objects (shape), or objects (image) as measuring elements. Choose two elements to measure pixel distance or angle. The measurement result is displayed as red lines and characters.

Name	Function description
Name	Name the task.
Add New Object	Add new measurement elements from the list.
Add New Measure	Choose two elements from the list to measure the distance or angle (only angle can be measured between straight lines).
Unit of Distance	The pixels can be converted to millimeters by the calibration plate or TM Landmark (for reference only).

Table 57: Gauge Functions

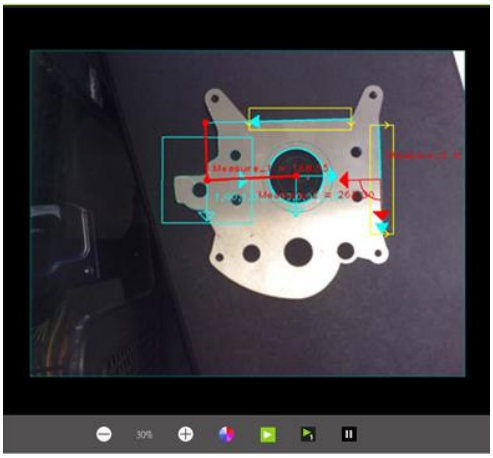


Figure 27: Gauge Example

6.2.5.1 Anchor

Choose a point in the image as the anchor to measure the distance and the angle between the anchor and any other element. Use the TrackBar to adjust the anchor point placement and angle.

Name	Function description
Image source	Choose image source.
Name	Name the task.
Manual Adjustment	Manually drag the anchor point to the target position.

Name	Function description
X direction shift (pixels)	Change the anchor position to the X direction of home point.
Y direction shift (pixels)	Change the anchor position to the Y direction of home point.
Rotation	Change the anchor of home point.

Table 58: Anchor Functions

Figure 28: Anchor Example

6.2.5.2 Line

Name	Function description
Image source	Choose image source
Name	Name the task
Select ROI	Select the object edge of the newly added straight line in the pop-up window. The direction that the mouse is dragged determines the direction of the straight line.
Scan Direction	Brightness change direction of the detection edge. After selecting the ROI, the frame will show the detection direction.
Intensity Threshold	Only threshold difference greater than this value will be detected.

Table 59: Line Functions

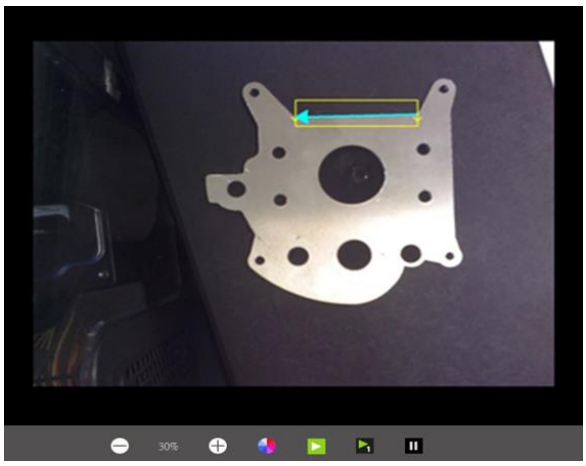


Figure 29: Line Example

IMPORTANT:
Can only measure the angle between two straight line elements and not the distance.

6.2.5.3 Circle

Name	Function description
Image source	Choose image source.
Name	Name the task.
Select ROI	Select the newly added round shape in the pop-up window. The ROI shows two rounds with the same center. The shape is adjusted to be between the two rounds with the same center. The image strength threshold and the measurement angle are adjusted to stabilize the result.
Scan Direction	Detect the edge's brightness change direction. After choosing the ROI, the frame will show the detection direction.
Intensity Threshold	Only threshold differences greater than this value will be detected.

Table 60: Circle Functions

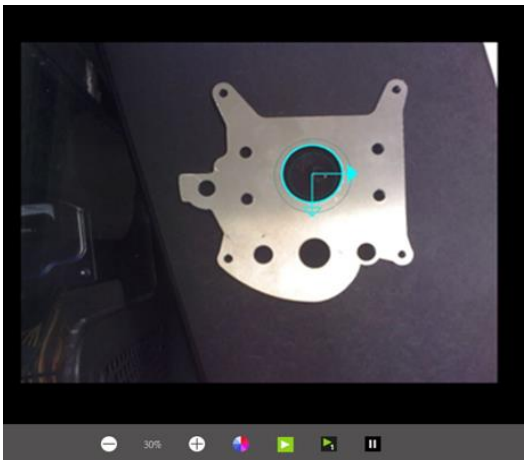


Figure 30: Circle Example (External)

6.2.5.4 Shape-based Pattern

Click Select Pattern to select the shape of the newly added object in the pop-up window. Use Edit Pattern to change the object shape and Set Search Range to set the pattern's range from image. Adjust the number of Pyramid Layers and the minimum score to stabilize the result.

6.2.5.5 Image-based Pattern

Click Select Pattern to select the image of the newly added object in the pop-up window. Use Set Search Range to set the pattern's range from image. Adjust the number of Pyramid Layers and the minimum score to stabilize the result.

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