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Surround View Application Reference Manual Rev. 4 — 22 May 2025

Reference manual

Document information

Information	Content
Keywords	Surround View system, i.MX 95 EVK
Abstract	This document describes the software theory of the NXP's 360-degree Surround View system, which contains several separate applications.



Surround View Application Reference Manual

1 Introduction

This document describes the software theory of the NXP's 360-degree Surround View system which contains several separate applications. This document also describes how to build each application from sources. A separate part of this document describes how to properly perform the system calibration settings and all necessary preparations before running the system (automatic) calibration. The Application Programming Interface (API) of the system calibration application is described in the final and the most detailed section of this document. It is the most important part of the whole Surround View system.

The Surround View software's ability can be demonstrated using its development kit. It is assumed that the interested user can build this kit themselves using the released hardware and software sources. For more information on how to run properly and set up the Surround View development kit using the i.MX 95 EVK device, see the separate *Surround View Application User's Guide* (document <u>SVAUG</u>).

2 Software overview

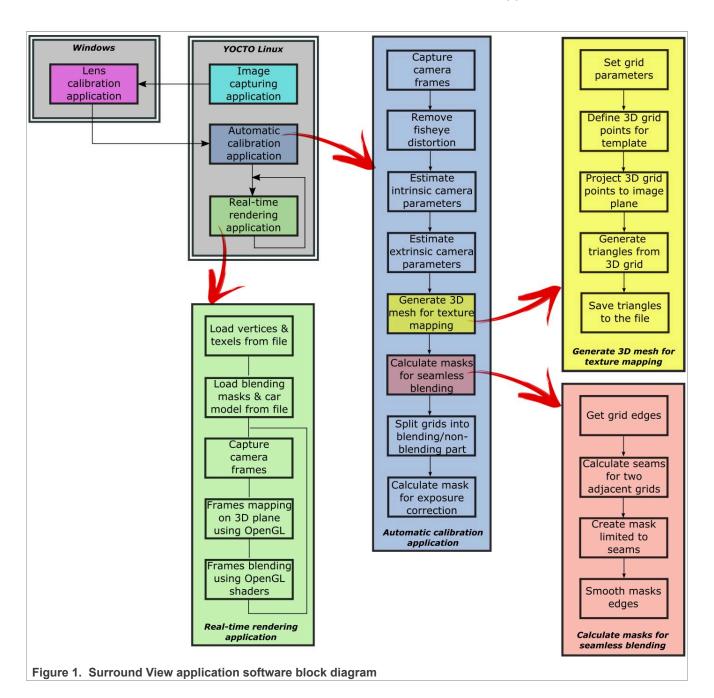
From the software point of view, the whole Surround View 3D application (SV3D) is based on these parts:

- Linux OS. The current image can be created using the <u>Yocto Linux OS project</u> for i.MX 95 EVK.
- An image-capturing application, whose sources are a part of the <u>Surround View software package</u> available in the repository. It is a simple application used for the camera frames' capturing. These frames are used by the camera lens calibration tool consecutively.
- A camera lens calibration tool that is used for the intrinsic camera parameters calibration. Originally, it is
 a third party <u>Matlab toolbox</u>. The detailed application theory of this tool is described on the <u>official web</u>
 <u>page</u>. The tool is modified by NXP and compiled using the Matlab Runtime compiler available at http://www.mathworks.com. The latest sources are available in the relevant repository. The use of the Surround
 View lens calibration is described in the Surround View Application User's Guide (document SVAUG). The
 intrinsic parameters represent the optical center and focal length of the camera.
- A system (automatic) calibration application. It is a one-shot and offline preprocessing application to calculate all the necessary extrinsic camera parameters, which represent the location of the camera in the 3D scene. The application executes all preprocessing calculations and generates the files for texture mapping (rendering). The calibration should be done only once when the camera system is fixed and the cameras do not move relatively to each other. Otherwise, the calibration process must be repeated. The sources of this application are a part of the Surround View software package available at the repository.
- A real-time rendering application that maps camera frames onto a prepared 3D mesh using an internal GPU
 and blends them. The 3D rendering process uses real camera frames from the Surround View development
 kit (default mode) or video in the App/Content/camera_inputs folder (optional mode). All sources of this
 application are a part of the Surround View software package available in the repository.

Note: Only the lens camera calibration tool runs on the Windows OS platform. The other applications (image capturing, system calibration, rendering) run on the Yocto Linux OS platform.

<u>Figure 1</u> shows the detailed application block diagram of the complete Surround View system and the Linux OS to Windows OS applications code flow.

Surround View Application Reference Manual



3 Building applications from sources

All Yocto Linux OS Surround View applications can be built from sources. Here is how to do it:

• Download the latest Yocto image from the <u>repository</u>. <u>Table 1</u> summarizes the versions of all Yocto images that were used to verify the Surround View application ability.

Table 1. Surround view application verified images

	11
Version of	Target device
	i.MX 95 EVK ¹
Image	L6.6.52_2.2.0

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Surround View Application Reference Manual

Table 1. Surround view application verified images...continued

	11	
Version of	Target device	
	i.MX 95 EVK ¹	
OpenCV	4.10.0	
Kernel	6.6.52_2.2.0	
Tested on the XDG shell backend on the i.MX 95 EVK.		

- Save this image to the SD card. The image contains both the root file system and kernel.
- Download the latest Surround View application source code from the <u>repository</u> and save the sources to the / root/SV3D-1.4 folder on the system SD card.
- Go to the App/Sources subfolder and build the application using the make command. Use the right build command with regard to the current graphical backend, the target device, and the input you need (see Table 2 for all possible build configurations). Alternatively, the instructions to build the application are included in the README.md file in the application root folder. The "make" command automatically creates the /App/Build and /Tools/CamCapture subfolders after its first use (if these directories do not exist already). The "make" command builds the whole Surround View project and creates these binary files (applications):
 - Image capturing binary file (capturing) in the /Tools/CamCapture/ folder.
 - Automatic (system) calibration binary file (auto calib 1.4 in the /App/Build/folder.
 - Rendering binary file (SV3D-1.4) in the /App/Build/ folder.

Table 2. Surround View application build commands

Inputs	Graphical backends	Build command
Cameras	XDG	make -f Makefile.xdg

4 System calibration arrangement

Before running the automatic (system) calibration application, perform these preparations:

- 1. Perform the calibration (system) settings for each camera and the whole system.
- 2. Prepare the system calibration pattern and template definitions for each camera.
- 3. Capture the camera frames using the checkerboard calibration pattern and the image capture application.
- 4. Generate the radial models for each camera using the OcamCalib toolbox for Matlab (For more information, see OCAIIBRIGHTOOLBOX FOR MATLAB CALIBRATION TOOLBOX FOR MATLAB RUNTIME).

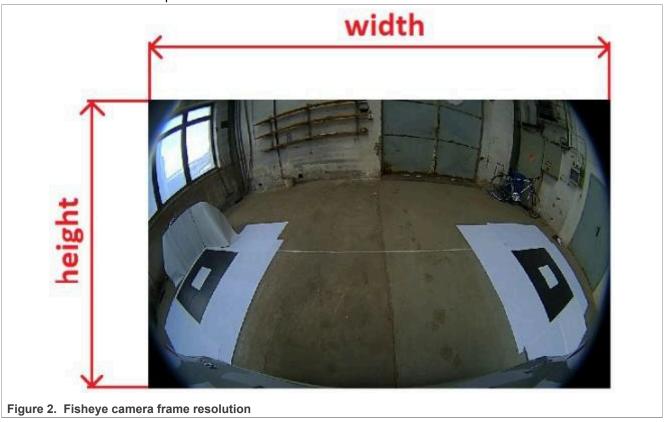
4.1 System calibration settings

The system parameters are defined in the App/Content/settings.xml file. These settings are used by all Surround View applications, but most of the settings' values are used by the automatic calibration application. There are several specific sections in this file:

- <path>
 - <camera_inputs>—the path to the video files. They are used only when the automatic calibration (and rendering) is done from the video files (not from the cameras).
 - <camera_model>—the path to the camera model files. This model is stitched to the final composite 3D surround view in the rendering application.
 - <template>—the path to the template point files.
- <camera>
 - <number>—the number of cameras (can be 1, 2, 3, or 4).

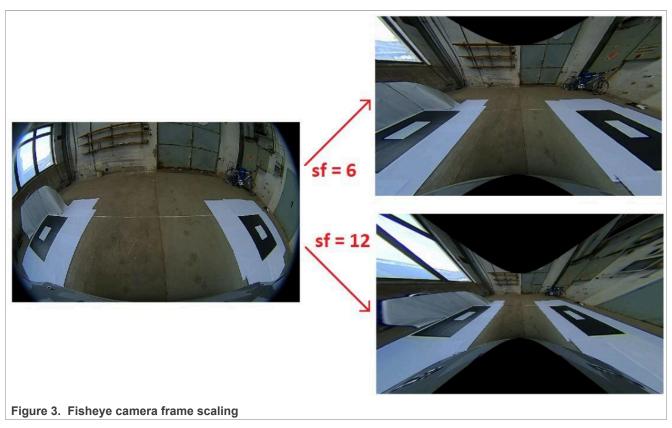
Surround View Application Reference Manual

- <*camerax*> (x = 1...4)—the x camera parameters.
- <height>—the camera input frame height.
- **-** <*width*>—the camera input frame width.

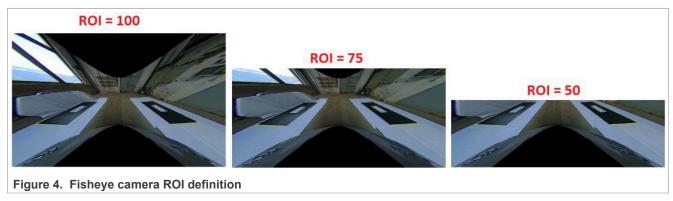


• <sf>—the scale factor for the lens undistorting.

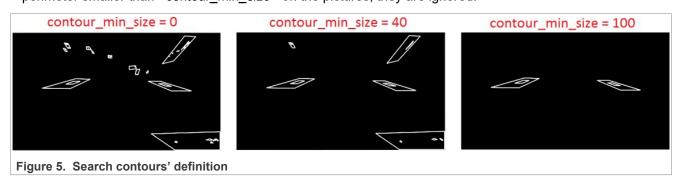
Surround View Application Reference Manual



• <roi>—the region of interest for contours' searching. The number is in the percentage of the input frame height from the bottom to the top.



• <contour_min_size>—the minimum perimeter of the searched contour (in pixels). If there are contours with a perimeter smaller than <contour_min_size> on the pictures, they are ignored.



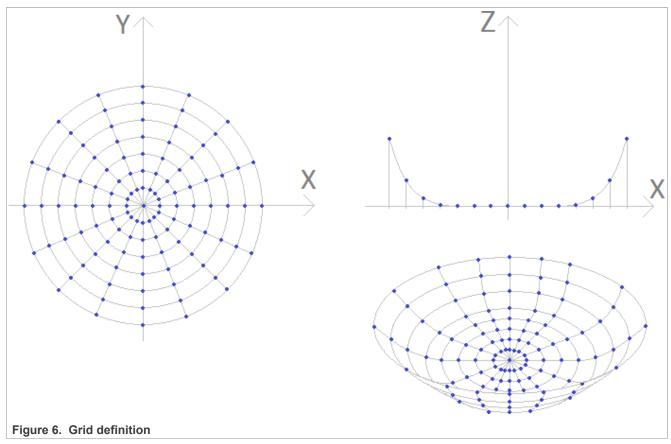
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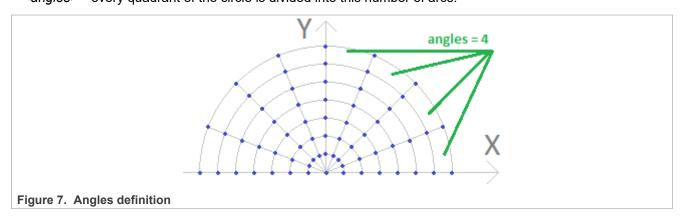
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Surround View Application Reference Manual

- <chessboard_num>—the number of checkerboard images that are used to estimate the intrinsic camera parameters. The checkerboards are in the App/Content/camera_model/chessboard_x folders (x = 1...4).
- <display>
 - <height>--display height.
 - <width>—display width.
- <grid>

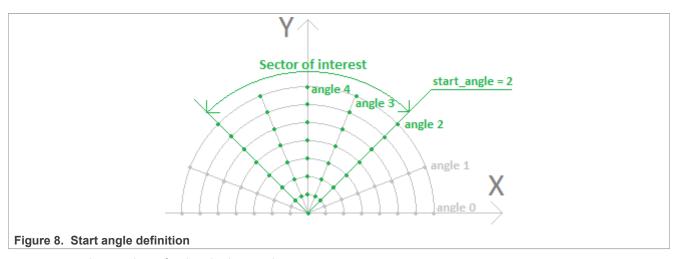


• <angles>—every quadrant of the circle is divided into this number of arcs.

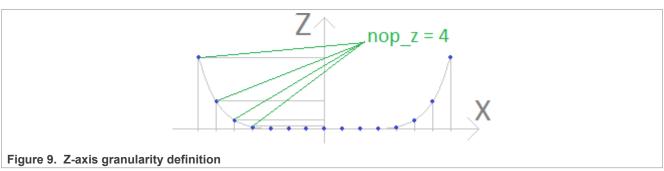


<start_angle>—it is not necessary to define the grid through a whole semi-circle. The
 <start_angle> sets the circle sector for which the grid is generated.

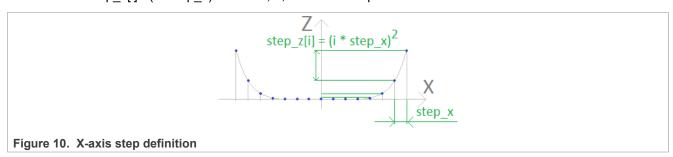
Surround View Application Reference Manual



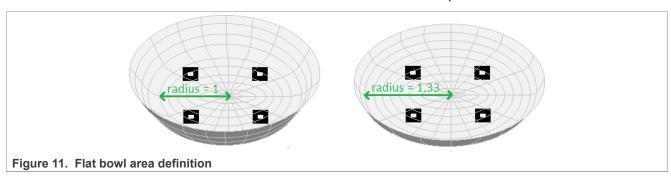
• <nop_z>—the number of points in the z-axis.



• <step_x>—the step in the x-axis that is used to define the grid points in the z-axis. The step in the z-axis is defined as: step_z[i]= (i * step_x)² for i = 1, 2, ... number of points.



<radius>—the scale of the flat bowl bottom area radius related to the template radius.



<mask>

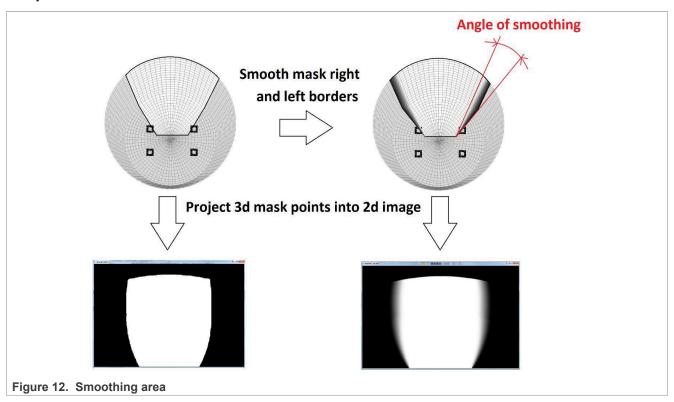
To achieve a seamless blending of frames, the left and right edges of the masks are smoothed.

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Surround View Application Reference Manual

<smooth_angle>—defines the area in which the mask edges are smoothed. The original seam divides the
smoothing angle into two angles with equal measures (angle bisector). The angle-based smoothing is applied
only for a flat base. The seam at the bowl side is smoothed with a constant width.



<fb>

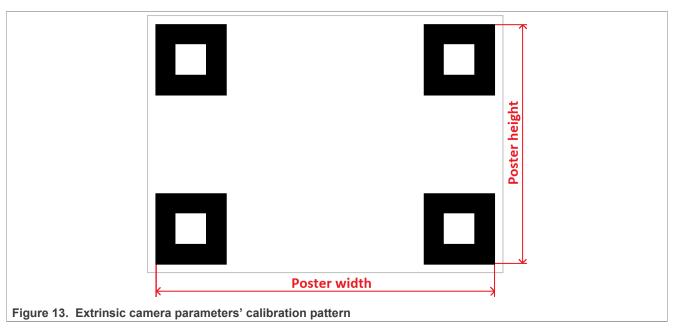
When the application runs in the frame buffer or XWayland graphical backends, both the keyboard and mouse events are read from the /dev/input/by-path/ devices and unique for the particular board. It is necessary to define the keyboard, mouse, and display devices. For the x11 graphical backend, these settings are ignored.

- <keyboard>—the absolute path of a keyboard device.
- <mouse>—the absolute path of a mouse device.
- < display>—the absolute path of a display device.
- <car model>
 - <x_scale>—the car model scale in the x-axis.
 - <y_scale>—the car model scale in the y-axis.
 - <z_scale>—the car model scale in the z-axis.

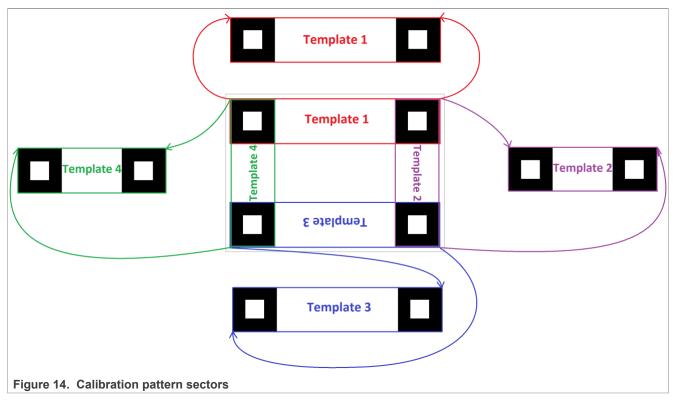
4.2 System calibration template

To calibrate the 4-camera system, the calibration pattern of a known size is used. See <u>Figure 13</u> for an example of the rectangular pattern.

Surround View Application Reference Manual

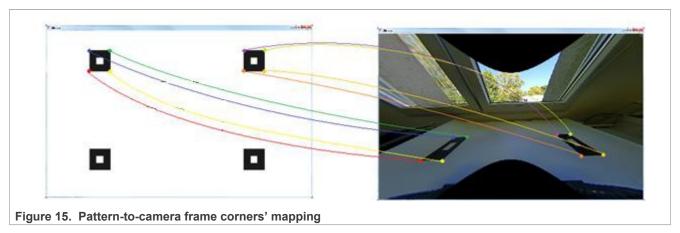


Each camera can see two adjacent patterns. Therefore, the calibration poster is divided into four separate templates (or sectors); one for each camera (see <u>Figure 14</u>).

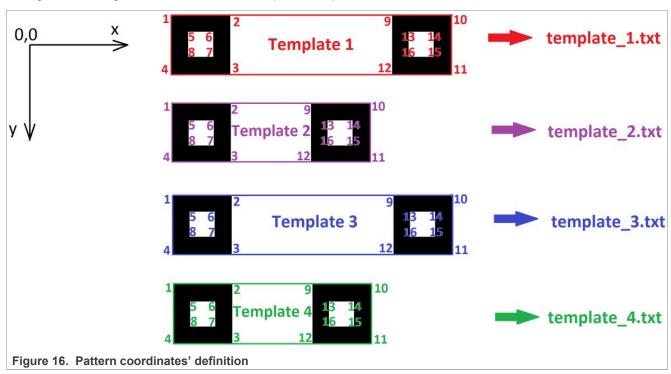


The application estimates the extrinsic camera position in relation to the calibration template and the coordinates of the template corners (16 points per template). It identifies all pattern corners in the captured camera images and establishes a correspondence with the real-world distances of these corners. Using these correspondences, the extrinsic camera parameters (rotation and translation vectors) are estimated.

Surround View Application Reference Manual



Before running the automatic calibration application, it is necessary to determine the template points and save the points' coordinates to the $App/Content/template/template_y.txt$ files, where y = 1...4 is the camera index. The coordinates in these files are divided into two columns: the first column contains the x-coordinates and the second column contains the y-coordinates (see Figure 16). The points must be defined in the right-ascending order, which means from point 1 to point 16.



It is not necessary to define the template points for a real template size, but it is necessary to define all points with the right proportion between them. For example, the point coordinates can be defined in pixels or millimeters.

Note: For a square-sized calibration pattern, all four templates are the same.

4.3 Image capturing

A special checkerboard calibration pattern is used for the image capturing before running the intrinsic camera calibration (see <u>Figure 17</u>).

Surround View Application Reference Manual



Figure 17. Intrinsic camera parameters' calibration pattern

Use the image capturing binary file in the <code>Tools/CamCapture</code> folder and follow all steps described in the "Image capturing" section of the *Surround View Application User's Guide* (document SVAUG). This application returns several images per camera in a JPEG format, which are then used by the lens calibration tool.

Table 3. Image capturing application dependency

- mage output a promotion appointment		
Application inputs	Real-time camera frames	
Application outputs	/Tools/CamCapture/frameX_Y.jpg ¹	
Application settings /App/Content/settings.xml		
Binary file name	/Tools/CamCapture/capturing	
Target platform	i.MX 95 EVK	
Target OS	Yocto Linux OS	
With subsequent copying to the relevant App/Content/camera_models/ folder		

Note: The captured images are used for the intrinsic camera parameters' calculation by both the lens and automatic calibration applications.

4.4 Camera model generation

To generate the radial camera models, the Scaramuzza toolbox for Matlab is used. Alternatively, the pre-built binary file can be used. The application generates text files with radial camera model coefficients, which are used by the automatic calibration application consecutively. The text files are called <code>calib_result_y.txt</code>, where y = 1...4 is the camera index. These files are in the <code>App/Content/camera_models</code> folder. Follow all the steps described in the "Camera intrinsic parameters estimation tool" section of the *Surround View Application User's Guide* (document SVAUG). It is a simplified version of the application usage summary:

- 1. Copy all input (captured) JPEG images from the target platform to the Windows OS PC.
- 2. Perform the lens (intrinsic) calibration using the OCamCalib toolbox for Matlab or OCamCalib executable file for Matlab Runtime.
- 3. Copy all generated model text files for the target platform to its relevant folder.

Table 4. Lens calibration application dependency

Application inputs	frameX_Y.jpg ¹	
Application outputs	calib_results_X.txt ²	
Application name	OCamCalib Matlab toolbox v3.0 or ocam_calib.exe for Matlab Runtime	
Target OS	64-bit Windows OS PC with Matlab	
Copy from the target-platform Tools/CamCapture/ folder		
2. With subsequent copying to the relevant /App/Content/camera_models/ folder		

5 Automatic calibration application

The automatic (system) calibration is a one-shot, standalone application that performs the whole preprocessing calculation and generates the files for texture mapping. It uses only the CPU, while the final rendering

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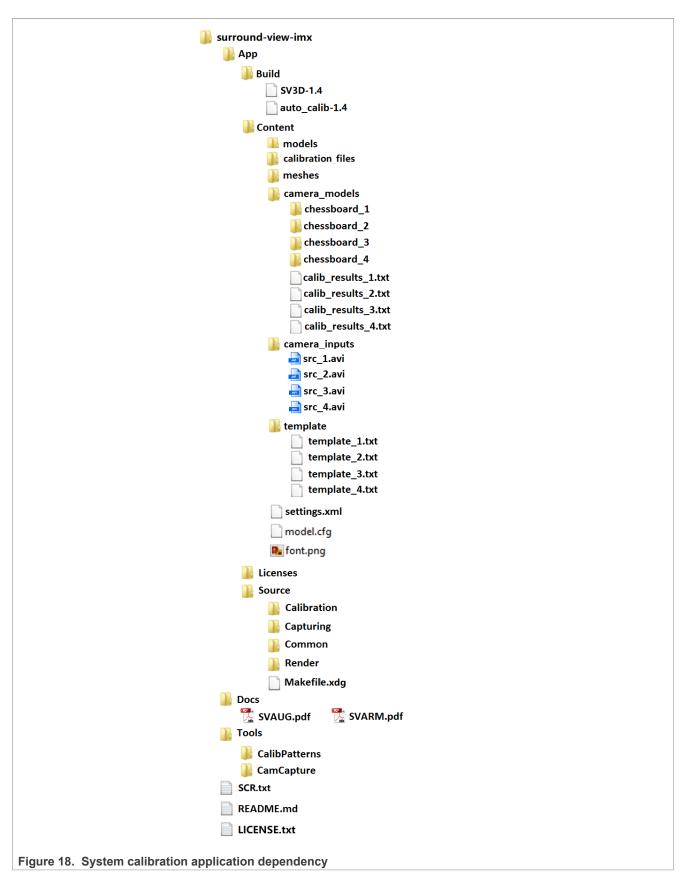
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Surround View Application Reference Manual

application uses the GPU. To estimate the extrinsic camera parameters, a special calibration pattern of a known size is used (see <u>Figure 13</u>). The process of the automatic (system) camera calibration using the i.MX95 EVK is described in the "System calibration" section of the *Surround View Application User's Guide* (document <u>SVAUG</u>).

Before running the automatic calibration, make sure that all files are in the correct folders (see Figure 18).

Surround View Application Reference Manual



Surround View Application Reference Manual

Table 5. Automatic calibration application dependency

Application inputs	/App/Content/camera_models/calib_results_X.txt
	/App/Content/camera_models/chessboard_X/frameX_Y.jpg
	/App/Content/template/template_X.jpg
Application outputs	/App/Build/arrayN
	/App/Build/maskN.jpg
	/App/Build/compensator/
Application settings	/App/Content/settings.xml
Binary file name	/App/Build/auto_calib_1.4
Target platform	i.MX 95 EVK
Target OS	Yocto Linux OS

6 Automatic calibration API definition

There are five main steps in the automatic (system) calibration process:

- 1. Read the calibration parameters from the settings.xml file located in the /App/Content folder.
- 2. Create all camera objects and set the objects' properties (camera objects are independent of each other).
- 3. Create a grid for each camera (the grid objects are independent of each other).
- 4. Create the masks for all cameras at once. Split the grids according to these masks.
- 5. Create the exposure compensator for all cameras at once.

Individual classes are created for each step: XMLParameters, Camera, Grid, Mask, and Compensator classes. See the following subsections for their description.

6.1 XMLParameters class

The XMLParameters object contains different parameters which are used to define the attributes of other classes and described in Section "System calibration settings".

Public attributes (accessible from outside the class):

- string camera inputs—the path to the camera calibration frame files.
- string camera_ model—the path to the camera model files.
- string tmplt—the path to the template points' files.
- int camera num—the number of cameras.
- CamParam cameras[4]—the cameras' parameters.
- int height—the camera frame height in pixels.
- int width—the camera frame width in pixels.
- float sf-the de-fisheye scale factor.
- int roi—the region of interest for the contours' searching (in percentage of the input frame height from the bottom to the top).
- int cntr_min_size—the minimum length of the contour in pixels.
- int disp_height—display height.
- int disp_width—display width.
- bool show debug img—debug mode.
- int grid_angles—every quadrant of the circle is going to be divided into this number of arcs.
- int grid_start_angle—this parameter sets a circle segment for which the grid is generated.

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Surround View Application Reference Manual

- int grid_nop_z—the number of points in the z-axis.
- float grid step x—a step in the x-axis for the bowl side which is used to define the grid points in the z-axis.
- float bowl radius—the bowl radius scale.
- float smooth_angle—the mask angle of smoothing.
- string keyboard—the keyboard device.
- string mouse—the mouse device.
- string out disp-the display device.
- float model scale^[3]—the car model scale.

Public methods (accessible from outside the class):

• Read the calibration parameters from an .xml file.

int readXML(const char* filename);

• Get the maximum value of the x-coordinate from a .tmplt file with the template points' definition.

int getTmpMaxVal(const char* filename, int* val);

• Print the XML parameters to the screen.

```
/********************
* @brief Write all the public parameters' values.
* @param -
* @return -
* @remarks The function writes all public parameters values to the screen.
**********************************/
```

void printParam();

6.2 Camera class

The camera object is created for each camera and contains all information about the camera, that is the camera model, the intrinsic and extrinsic parameters, the LUT for the fisheye distortion removal, and so on. The camera objects are independent of each other.

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Surround View Application Reference Manual

To estimate a camera model, the Scaramuzza toolbox for Matlab is used. The toolbox generates a polynomial camera model and saves it into a .txt file. These camera polynomial coefficients are used to remove the fisheye distortion.

The estimation of both the extrinsic and intrinsic camera parameters is made after the fisheye distortion is removed.

Checkerboard images are used to estimate the intrinsic camera parameters. The application searches the checkerboard corners and calculates the camera matrix, knowing that all checkerboard squares are equal.

To estimate the extrinsic parameters, use a special template with patterns of a known size.

The application identifies all pattern corners in the captured camera images and establishes a correspondence with the real-world distance of these corners. Using these correspondences, the extrinsic camera parameters (rotation and translation vectors) are estimated.

It is necessary to set the template parameters and the intrinsic camera parameters before the extrinsic camera parameters are calculated.

Public attributes (accessible from outside the class):

- int index—camera index. The camera index defines the angle at which the camera input is going to be rotated in the result view (rotation: 1—without rotation, 2—rotated left by 90 degrees, 3—rotated by 180 degrees, 4—rotated right by 90 degrees).
- ocam_model model—radial camera model. This camera model is used to remove the fisheye distortion and
 must be prepared before running the automatic calibration (see Section 4.4 "<u>Camera model generation</u>"). The
 path to the camera model must be written to the settings.xml file (see Section 4.1, "<u>System calibration</u>
 settings").
- float sf—scale factor. The scale factor defines the camera FOV after removing the de-fisheye transformation and its value must be written into the settings.xml file (see Section 4.1 "System calibration settings").
- Mat xmap, ymap—x LUT, y LUT. These LUTs are used to remove the fisheye distortion. They are calculated using the radial camera model, scale factor, and camera frame size.
- Size poster—poster size. It is the size of a whole poster with four square patterns (see Section 4.2 "System calibration template").
- **struct** CameraTemplate tmp—template properties:
 - char filename[50]—the name of the file that contains the points' coordinates definition.
 - Size size—template size. It is not the size of a whole poster but the size of a separate template that is seeable to the camera (it consists of two square patterns). The template size is calculated from the points' coordinates in a camera class method.
 - uint pt_count—points' number. The points' number is obtained from the file with the points' coordinates
 which must be prepared before running the automatic calibration (see Section 4.2 "System calibration
 template").
 - vector<Point3f> ref_points—points' coordinates. The points' coordinates are read from a file that must be
 prepared before running the automatic calibration (see Section 4.2 "System calibration template").

Private attributes (inaccessible from outside the class):

- float roi—the ROI defines the region in which the pattern contours are searched. It is defined in the percentage of the input frame height from the bottom to the top and its value is set in the settings.xml file (see Section 4.1, "System calibration settings").
- int cntr_min_size—minimum contour size. This attribute defines the minimum perimeter of the searched contour in pixels. If there are contours with a perimeter smaller than this value on the pictures, then they are ignored. The attributes' value is set in the settings.xml file (see Section 4.1, "System calibration settings").

Surround View Application Reference Manual

- **double** radius—template radius. It is the radius of the circle that is circumscribed around the calibration poster in pixels. The value is calculated from the poster size as half of its diagonal.
- struct CameraParameters param—camera parameters:
 - Mat K—the camera matrix (intrinsic camera parameters) is calculated from the checkerboard images (see Section 4.3, "Image capturing").
 - Mat distCoeffs—the distortion coefficients (extrinsic camera parameters) are calculated from the correspondence between the template points and the points from the calibration image of the template from the camera
 - Mat rvec—the rotation matrix (extrinsic camera parameter) is calculated from the correspondence between the template points and the points from the calibration image of the template from the camera.
 - Mat tvec—the translation vector (extrinsic camera parameter) is calculated from the correspondence between the template points and the points from the calibration image of the template from the camera.

Public methods (accessible from outside the class):

· Create a camera object.

static Camera* create(const char *filename, float sf, int index);

Set the template parameters.

int setTemplate(const char *filename, Size poster size);

Set the intrinsic camera parameters.

```
/************************
* @brief Set the camera intrinsic parameters (camera matrix and distortion coefficients).
```

Surround View Application Reference Manual

- * @param in char *filename—the path to the folder which contains the checkerboard images.
- * char *filename-the checkerboard .jpg file base name.
- * int img num-the number of the calibrating images.
- * Size patternSize—the number of checkerboard corners in the horizontal and
- * vertical directions.
- * @return The function returns 0 if all checkerboard corners are found and they
- * are placed in a certain order (row by row, left to right in every row).
- * Otherwise, -1 is returned.
- * The private property param and public properties xmap and ymap of the Camera
- * object are set.
- * @remarks The intrinsic camera parameters are calculated for the camera after removing
- * the fisheye transformation. Therefore, the estimation of the intrinsic camera
- * parameters is made after the fisheye distortion is removed.
- * The function calculates the camera matrix K using the checkerboard images.
 - fx 0 cx
- K = |0 fy cy | (cx, cy)—the principal point at the image center.
 - $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ fx, fy—the focal lengths in the x- and y-axes.
- * The distCoeffs distortion coefficients are set to 0 after the defisheye * transformation LUTs are calculated.
- *********
- int setIntrinsic(const char *filepath, const char *filename, int img_num, Size
 patternSize);
- Set the extrinsic camera parameters.

/*********

- * @brief Set the extrinsic camera parameters (rotation and translation vectors).
- * @param in const Mat &img-the captured calibrating frame from the camera.
- * @return The function returns 0 if the extrinsic camera parameters are set.
- * A return value of -1 indicates an error.
- * The param and radius private properties of the Camera object are set.
- $\mbox{\ensuremath{^{\star}}}$ @remarks The function calculates the extrinsic camera parameters to find an object pose
- * from the 3D-2D point correspondences. To estimate the extrinsic parameters, a
- * special template with patterns of a known size must be used. The application
- * identifies all pattern corners in the captured camera images and establishes a
- * correspondence with the real-world distance of these corners. Using these
- * correspondences, the extrinsic camera parameters (rotation and translation
- * vectors) are estimated.
- * The estimation of the extrinsic parameters is done after the fisheye distortion
- * is removed.
- * Set the templates' parameters and the intrinsic camera parameters before
- * the extrinsic camera parameters are calculated.
- * Important: the calibration patterns must be visible on the captured frame.
- *************

int setExtrinsic(const Mat &img);

• Get the maximum bowl height.

```
/*********
```

* @brief Get the maximum number of grid rows in the z-axis.

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Surround View Application Reference Manual

int getBowlHeight(double radius, double step_x);

· Get the base radius.

double getBaseRadius();

Set the ROI for contour searching.

void setRoi(uint val);

Set the minimum contours' size.

```
/****************
* @brief Set the empiric bound for the minimum allowed perimeter for contour squares.
* @param in uint val—the empiric bound for the minimum allowed perimeter for contour
* squares.
```

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Surround View Application Reference Manual

```
* @return The private attribute cntr_min_size is set.
```

void setContourMinSize(uint val);

· Remove the fisheye distortion from the input frame.

```
/************************
* @brief Remove the fisheye distortion from the image.
* @param in Mat &img-input fisheye image.
* out Mat &out-output undistorted image.
* @return -
**********************************/
```

void defisheye(Mat &img, Mat &out);

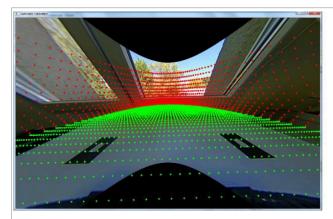
Example 1. Camera object creation

```
#define CAMERA NUMBER 4 // Cameras number
#define CORNER HOR 7 // Number of chessboard corners in horizontal direction
#define CORNER VER 7 // Number of chessboard corners in vertical directions.
vector<Camera*> camera(CAMERA NUMBER); // Camera objects
extern vector<Mat*> src img(CAMERA NUMBER); // Calibration frames from cameras
float sf = 8; // Scale factor
int poster width = 1200; // Poster width
int poster height = 800; // Poster height
int camera class example() {
for (uint i = 0; i < CAMERA NUMBER; i++) {</pre>
string camera model = "calib results " + lexical cast<string>(i + 1) + ".txt";
// Camera model
string template_points = "template " + lexical cast<string>(i + 1) + ".txt";
// Template points
string chessboard = "chessboard " + lexical cast<string>(i + 1) + "/"; //
Chessboard image
Creator creator;
camera[i] = creator.create(camera model.c str(),sf, i); // Create Camera object
if(camera[i] == NULL) // Check if camera object was created
return(-1);
// Set <u>roi</u> in which contours will be searched (in % of image height) camera[i]-
>setRoi(60);
// Set empiric bound for minimal allowed perimeter for contours camera[i]-
>setContourMinSize(200);
// Set template size and reference points
if(camera[i]->setTemplate(template points.c str(), Size2d(poster width, poster
height)) != 0)
return(-1);
// Calculate intrinsic camera parameters using chessboard image
if(camera[i]->setIntrinsic(chessboard.c str(), (char*)"MIPI", 1,
Size(CORNER HOR, CORNER VER)) != 0)
//Estimate extrinsic camera parameters using calibrating template
if(camera[i]->setExtrinsic(src img[i]) != 0)
return(-1);
return(0);
}
```

Surround View Application Reference Manual

6.3 Grid class

The grid class generates a 3D grid of vertices/texels which are used to map the image from the camera into a 3D bowl using OpenGL. The grid has a bowl shape with a flat circular base and a parabolic bowl edge. The center of the flat circular base is in the center of the template.



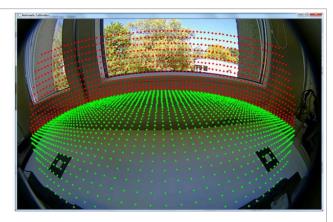


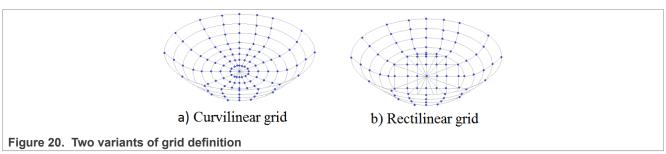
Figure 19. 3D grid definition

The procedure of a 3D grid definition is as follows:

- 1. Set the grid parameters.
- 2. Define the 3D grid points relative to the center of the calibration poster.
- 3. Project the 3D points to an image plane.
- 4. Generate triangles from the 3D grid and save them to a file. The file is used for texture mapping.

There are two variants of grid definition for the flat bowl bottom with the same API:

- 1. The CurvilinearGrid class—the grid is denser in the center of the bowl bottom and more sparse at the bowl bottom edge.
- 2. The RectilinearGrid class—the grid is sparse in the middle of the bowl bottom and denser at the bowl bottom edge.



Private attributes (inaccessible from outside the class):

- GridParam parameters—the parameters of the grid:
 - uint angles—every quadrant of the circle is divided into this number of arcs (see Section 4.1, "System calibration settings").
 - **uint** start_angle—the parameter sets the circle segment for which the grid is generated (see Section 4.1, "System calibration settings").
 - uint nop_z—the number of points in the z-axis (see Section 4.1, "System calibration settings")
 - double step_x—the step in the x-axis which is used to define the grid points in the z-axis (see Section 4.1, "System calibration settings").
- vector<Point3f> seam—the points' array for the seam definition. Eight edge points are defined for each grid.

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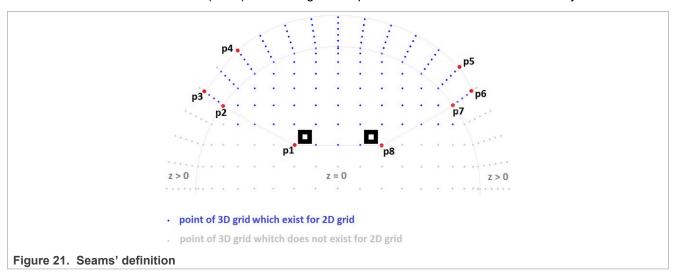
Surround View Application Reference Manual

Points 1-4 describe the left edge of the grid (they are located in the second quadrant).

- Point 1 is on the flat circle base (z = 0). It is the leftmost point with the minimum value of the y coordinate.
- Point 2 is on the flat circle base (z = 0). It is the leftmost point of the grid and lies on the base circle edge;
- Point 3 is on the bowl edge. It is the last point in the first grid column with (z! = 0).
- Point 4 is on the bowl edge. It is the leftmost point with the maximum value of the z-coordinate.

Points 5-8 describe the right edge of the grid (they are located in the first quadrant).

- Point 5 is on the bowl edge. It is the rightmost point with the maximum value of the z-coordinate.
- Point 6 is on the bowl edge. It is the last point in the last grid column with (z! = 0).
- Point 7 is on the flat circle base (z = 0). It is the rightmost point of the grid and lies on the base circle edge.
- Point 8 is on the flat circle base (z = 0). It is the rightmost point with the minimum value of the y-coordinate.



Public methods (accessible from outside the class):

Create the Grid object.

Grid(uint angles, uint start angle, uint nop z, **double** step x);

· Get the seam points.

```
/*******************************

* @brief Copy the points from the seam property into the S vector.
```

Surround View Application Reference Manual

void getSeamPoints(vector<Point3f> &S);

Create the 3D grid and save it to a file for frame mapping.

void createGrid(Mat &img, Camera *camera, double radius);

Example 2. Grid object creation

```
#define CAMERA NUMBER 4 // Number of cameras
#define ANGLES 40 // Number of grid angles
#define START ANGLE 5 // Number of the first grid angle
#define STEP_{\overline{X}} 0.1 // Step in x axis
#define RADIUS 2.3 // Radius scale
extern vector<Camera*> camera(CAMERA NUMBER); // Camera objects
extern vector<Mat*> src img(CAMERA NUMBER); // Calibration frames from cameras
int grid class example() {
int nopz = 10;
for (uint i = 0; i < src img.size(); i++) { // Get number of points in z
axis int tmp = camera[i]->getBowlHeight(RADIUS * camera[i]->getBaseRadius(),
STEP X); nopz = MIN(nopz, tmp);
vector< vector<Point3f> > seam;
for (uint i = 0; i < src img.size(); i++) {</pre>
// Create Grid object, set grid parameters CurvilinearGrid grid(ANGLES,
START ANGLE, nopz, STEP X );
// Calculate grid points and save grid to the file grid.createGrid(src img[i],
camera[i], RADIUS * camera[i]->getBaseRadius()); vector<Point3f> seam points;
grid.getSeamPoints(seam points); // Get grid seams seam.push back(seam points);
return(0);
}
```

Surround View Application Reference Manual

6.4 Masks class

The Masks object prepares the masks' images for the Camera objects. These masks are used to stitch the frames from the cameras with the overlaps being as invisible as possible. They must be defined for the originally captured image from the camera (with fisheye distortion) because the same transformation is going to be applied to the camera frames and masks in the real-time rendering application.

The procedure of the mask calculation is as follows:

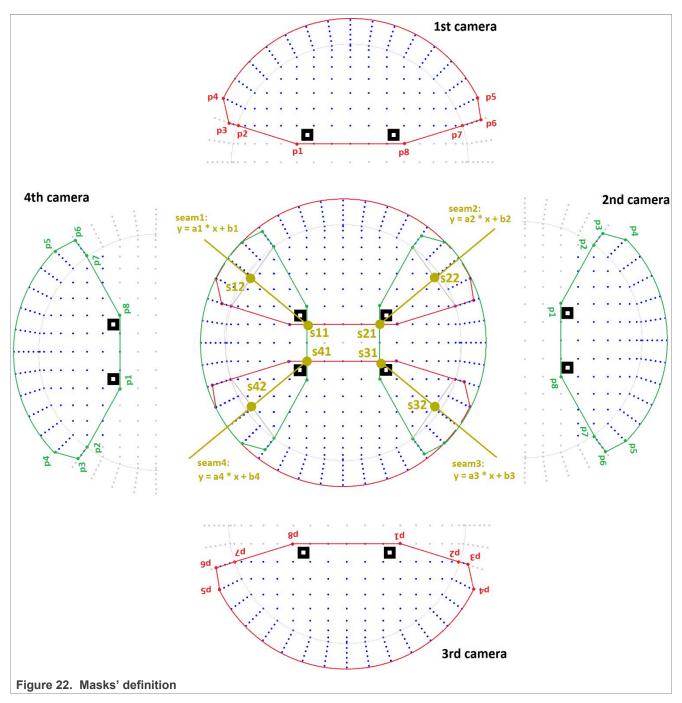
- Get the edges of the grids. Eight edge points must be defined for each grid (see Section 6.3, "Grid class").
- · Calculate the seams for every two adjacent grids.

The seam of two adjacent grids is a line y = a * x + b, where the a and b coefficients are found from the grid intersection:

- Find the intersection point of the grids' bottom borders (line between points p1 and p8)—s11.
- Find the center of the line between point p2 from one grid and point p7 from another grid—s12.
- Find the seam line coefficients a and b.

The seam points are defined for the 3D template and then projected to the image plane using the "projectPoints" function from the OpenCV library. To use the "projectPoints" function, you must know the extrinsic and intrinsic camera parameters (camera matrix, distortion coefficients, rotation, and translation vectors).

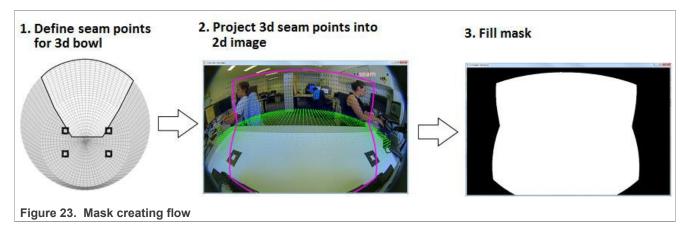
Surround View Application Reference Manual



• Create masks that are limited to the seam points.

The mask for each camera is defined for the 3D template. It is limited to the grid seams. The seam points are projected from a 3D space into a 2D image. All 2D seam points describe the convex polygon which defines the mask in a 2D image. The polygon is filled with white color and the background is filled with black color.

Surround View Application Reference Manual



· Smooth the mask edges.

To obtain a seamless blending of frames, the left and right edges of the masks are smoothed. The angle of smoothing defines the area in which the mask edge is going to be smooth. The original seam divides the smoothing angle into two angles with equal measures (angle bisector). The angle-based smoothing is applied only for a flat base. The seam at the bowl side is smoothed with a constant width of smoothing. See also Figure 12 for the smoothing area definition.

Private attributes (inaccessible from outside the class):

- vector<Mat> masks—the vector of masks (one mask for each camera).
- vector<Seam> seaml—the description of the left seam. It contains the coordinates of two points lying on the seam and the a and b coefficients of the seam (y = a*x + b).

• vector<Seam> seamr—the description of the right seam. It contains the coordinates of two points lying on the seam and the a and b coefficients of the seam (y = a*x + b).

Public methods (accessible from outside the class):

· Get the seam.

int getSeam(Seam* left, Seam* right, uint i);

Surround View Application Reference Manual

· Calculate the masks.

```
/**********
* @brief Calculate the masks for SV3D.
* @param in vector<Camera*> cameras—the vector of the Camera objects.
* vector< vector<Point3f> > &seam points-the pointer to the vector containing
* the seam points for all grids.
* The grid edge consists of eight points. Points 1-4 describe the left edge of
^{\star} the grid (they are in the second quadrant). Points 5-8 describe the right
* edge of the grid (they are in the first quadrant).
* - The first point is located on the flat circle base (z = 0). It is the
* point with the minimum value of the y-coordinate.
\star - The second point is located on the flat circle base (z = 0). It is the
* leftmost point of the grid which lies on the base circle edge.
  - The third point is located on the bowl edge. It is the last point in the
* grid column with a value of (z != 0).
^{\star} - The fourth point is located on the bowl edge. It is the leftmost point with
* the maximum value of the z-coordinate.
* - The fifth point is located on the bowl edge. It is the rightmost point with
* the maximum value of the z-coordinate.
* - The sixth point is located on the bowl edge. It is the last point in the
last.
* grid column with a value of (z != 0).
\star - The seventh point is located on the flat circle base (z = 0). It is the
* rightmost point of the grid which lies on the base circle edge.
* - The eighth point is located on the flat circle base (z = 0). It is the
* rightmost point with the minimum value of the y-coordinate.
* vector<Mat> &img-the seam is drawn on the image.
* float smothing—the smothing angle value.
* @return -
* @remarks The function calculates the masks for SV3D. The masks are used for
texture
* mapping. They must be defined for the original captured image from the camera
 (with fisheye distortion) because the same transformation is applied on
* the camera frames and masks.
* The procedure of mask calculation is as follows:
\star - Calculate the seams for every two adjacent grids.
* The seam of two adjacent grids is a line y = a * x + b.
* The a and b coefficients are found from the grid intersection.
^{\star} The seam points are defined for a 3D template and then
* projected to an image plane using the projecPoints function from
* the OpenCV library. To use the projectPoints function, it is necessary to
* know the extrinsic and intrinsic camera parameters: camera matrix,
* distortion coefficients, and rotation and translation vectors.
* - Create masks which are limited to the seams. All 2D seam points describe
* a convex polygon which defines the mask in a 2D image. The polygon is
* filled with white color and the background is filled with black color.
* - Smooth mask edges.
**********
```

void createMasks(vector<Camera*> &cameras, vector< vector<Point3f> > &seam_points, vector<Mat> &img,
float smoothing);

· Split vertices/texels grid.

```
/*********************************

* @brief Split the vertices/texels grid into a grid which is rendered with blending and

* a grid which is rendered without blending for all cameras.
```

Surround View Application Reference Manual

int splitGrids();

Example 3. Grid object creation

```
0.15 // Defines the area in which mask edge will be
#define SMOOTH ANGLE
 smooth
#define CAMERA NUMBER
                                // Cameras number
extern vector<Camera*> camera(CAMERA_NUMBER); // Camera objects
extern vector<Mat*> src img(CAMERA NUMBER);
                                             // Calibration frames from
cameras
                                                     // Vector of seam points
extern vector<Point3f> seam points;
int masks class example() {
    Masks masks;
    masks.createMasks(camera, seam, src img, SMOOTH ANGLE);
    if(masks.splitGrids() != 0) // Split vertices/texels grid
         return(-1);
return(0);
}
```

6.5 Compensator class

The exposure correction process is done in the texture-mapping application and includes two parts (these functions are not part of the Compensator class):

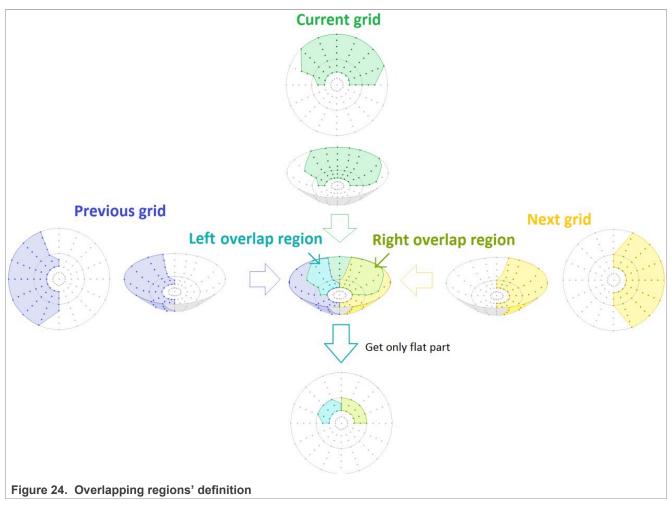
- Computation of the exposure correction coefficients.
- Applying exposure correction to the input frames.

The exposure correction coefficients for the current camera are computed as the sum of the pixel values in the overlapping area between the current camera frame and the previous camera frame in the linear RGB color space. Each camera has two overlap regions: one with the previous camera and the other with the next camera.

The Compensator class generates the grids only for the overlapping regions that lay on the flat bowl bottom for each camera and saves the grids into the *compensator* folder (one grid per camera). Each grid contains a description of two overlapping regions (left and right).

The application also saves the file with the coordinates of the circumscribed rectangle for each overlapping region. This information is used to copy only the overlapping regions from the frame buffer when the exposure correction coefficients are calculated.

Surround View Application Reference Manual



Private attributes (inaccessible from outside the class):

• CompensatorInfo cinf—a structure with the compensator parameters. All parameters are calculated when the compensator is created and fed.

```
struct CompensatorInfo {
vector<Rect2f> roi; // Vector of rectangles which circumscribe overlap regions
double radius; // Radius of bowl flat base
Mat mask; // Mask of all overlap regions
};
```

Public methods (accessible from outside the class):

Create the Compensator object.

Compensator(Size mask_size);

Surround View Application Reference Manual

Get the coordinates of the overlapping region rectangle reflection across the x-axis.

Rect getFlipROI(uint index);

· Calculate the compensator.

```
/**********
* @brief Fill the CompensatorInfo private property of the Compensator object.
* @param in vector<Camera*> cameras-the vector of the Camera objects.
* vector< vector<Point3f> > &seam points-the pointer to the vector containing
* the seam points for all grids (cameras).
* The grid edge consists of eight points. Points 1-4 describe the left edge of
* the grid (they are in the second quadrant). Points 5-8 describe the
* right edge of the grid (they are in the first quadrant).
\star - The first point is located on the flat circle base (z = 0). It is the
leftmost
* point with the minimum value of the y-coordinate;
\star - The point is located on the flat circle base (z = 0). It is the leftmost
 of the grid which lies on the base circle edge.
* - The third point is located on the bowl edge. It is the last point in the
first
* grid column (z != 0).
\star - The fourth point is located on the bowl edge. It is the leftmost point with
* the maximum value of the z-coordinate.
* - The fifth point is located on the bowl edge. It is the rightmost point with
* the maximum value of the z-coordinate.
^{\star} - The sixth point is located on the bowl edge. It is the last point in the
last
* grid column with (z != 0).
* - The seventh point is located on the flat circle base (z = 0). It is the
* rightmost point of the grid which lies on the base circle edge.
\star - The eighth point is located on the flat circle base (z = 0). It is the
* rightmost point with the minimum value of the y-coordinate.
* @return -
* @remarks The function fills the CompensatorInfo property of the Compensator.
* It calculates the mask which defines four overlap regions and circumscribed
* rectangles of each region.
***********
```

void feed(vector<Camera*> &cameras, vector< vector<Point3f> > &seam_points);

• Save the compensator info.

```
/************************
* @brief Save the compensator info.
* @param in char* path—path name.
* @return Returns 0 if the output file is created successfully. Otherwise, it returns -1.
* @remarks The function generates the grids only for the overlap regions which lay on the flat
```

Surround View Application Reference Manual

int save(char* path);

· Load the compensator info.

int load(char* path);

Example 4. Compensator object creation

```
#define DISPLAY HEIGHT 1080
#define DISPLAY WIDTH 1920
#define CAMERA NUMBER 4
extern vector<Camera*> camera(CAMERA NUMBER); // Camera objects
int compensator feed example() {
   Compensator compensator (Size (DISPLAY WIDTH, DISPLAY HEIGHT));
   compensator.feed(camera, seam);
   if (compensator.save((char*)"./compensator") !=0)
       return(-1);
   return(0);
}
#define NEXT(x, max) ((x < max) ? (x + 1) : (0)) // Next index
Mat overlap roi[CAMERA NUMBER][2]; // Left and right rois for each camera
int compensator load example() {
   Compensator compensator = new Compensator (Size (DISPLAY WIDTH,
DISPLAY HEIGHT));
   if (compensator->load((char*)"./compensator")!=0)
       return(-1);
   for (int j = 0; j < CAMERAS NUM; <math>j++)
       overlap roi[j][0] = Mat(compensator->getFlipROI(j).height, compensator-
>getFlipROI(j).width, CV 8UC(4));
       int next = NEXT(j, CAMERAS NUM - 1);
```

Surround View Application Reference Manual

```
overlap roi[j][1] = Mat(compensator->getFlipROI(next).height,
 compensator->getFlipROI(next).width, CV 8UC(4));
int compensator_using_example() {
    glReadPixels( compensator->getFlipROI(index).x, compensator-
>getFlipROI(index).y,
 compensator->getFlipROI(index).width, compensator->getFlipROI(index).height,
  GL RGBA,
  GL UNSIGNED BYTE,
  overlap roi[index][0].data);
    int next = NEXT(index, camera num - 1);
    glReadPixels( compensator->getFlipROI(next).x, compensator-
>getFlipROI(next).y,
  compensator->getFlipROI(next).width, compensator->getFlipROI(next).height,
  GL_RGBA,
  GL UNSIGNED BYTE,
  overlap roi[index][1].data);
```

7 Real-time rendering application

The real-time rendering application uses the OpenCV and Assimp libraries to load the rendering data and the OpenGL API to render the surround view. It is the final part of the whole Surround View system.

The application renders the camera frames (default real-time mode) on a prepared 3D mesh and blends them. Alternatively, it can also render video files (demo mode). The rendering application stitches four input images into a single output and displays it using the GPU. Finally, the simple car model is stitched into the center of the scene. For the application control, see the *Surround View Application User's Guide* (document <u>SVAUG</u>).

Table 6. Real-time rendering application dependency

Application inputs	/App/Build/arrayN		
	/App/Build/maskN.jpg		
	/App/Build/compensator/		
	/App/Content/models/ferrari.dae		
	/App/Content/font.png		
	Real-time camera frames ¹	/App/Content/camera_inputs/src_X.* ²	
Application settings	/App/Content/settings.xml		
Binary file name	/App/Build/SV3D-1.4		
Target platform	i.MX 95 EVK		
Target OS	Yocto Linux OS		
Default real-time mode Optional static demo mode	de (video files)		

Note: Only the real-time rendering application runs continuously. The other Surround View system applications (capturing, lens, and system calibrations) are one-shot applications.

Surround View Application Reference Manual

8 References

- 1. Surround View Application User's Guide (document SVAUG).
- 2. "i.MX 6 / i.MX 7 / i.MX 8 / i.MX 9 Series Software and Development Tool Resources" available at www.nxp.com
- 3. "Surround View Application", Reference Design Project page available at www.nxp.com
- 4. Davide Scaramuzza, "OCamCalib: Omnidirectional Camera Calibration Toolbox for Matlab" available at https://sites.google.com/site/scarabotix/ocamcalib-omnidirectional-camera-calibration-toolbox-for-matlab
- 5. Matlab Runtime R2017a, available at www.mathworks.com
- 6. OCamCalib", Omnidirectional Camera Calibration Toolbox for Matlab Runtime" available at https://github.com/nxp-imx/OCamCalib

9 Revision history

Table 7. Revision history

Document ID	Release date	Description
SVARM v.4.0	22 May 2025	i.MX 95 support is added.
SVARM v.3.0	October 2022	Sections 3, 5, 7 are updated
SVARM v.2.0	August 2022	Information about i.MX8QXP is added
SVARM v.1.0	July 2018	Added Matlab Runtime for OCamCalib.
SVARM v.0.0	March 2018	Initial version

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Surround View Application Reference Manual

Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Software overview	2
3	Building applications from sources	3
4	System calibration arrangement	4
4.1	System calibration settings	
4.2	System calibration template	9
4.3	Image capturing	11
4.4	Camera model generation	12
5	Automatic calibration application	12
6	Automatic calibration API definition	15
6.1	XMLParameters class	15
6.2	Camera class	16
6.3	Grid class	22
6.4	Masks class	25
6.5	Compensator class	29
7	Real-time rendering application	33
8	References	34
9	Revision history	34
10	Note about the source code in the	
	document	34
	Legal information	35

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