

# User's Manual

## Telescope Interface Module

Right Ascension, LLC.

Flagstaff, AZ



V1.02

## Safety Precautions

The new Telescope Interface Module TIM has been designed with great care and should perform safely and reliably. Still, please keep the following safety precautions in mind to ensure safe and reliable performance.

- Please connect or disconnect the main connector, cover-flap connector (if installed), the camera rotator, RCA connector and hand-paddle while the system power is **off**. Failing to do so might damage the Telescope Interface Module.
- USB and/or Ethernet connection might be connected if the system is powered up
- Only use the provided power supply to run the Telescope Interface Module. Other power supplies can damage the Telescope Interface Module.
- The RCA connector is designed to operate another Fan or Heater and provides a 12V/1A pulse width modulated power output. Other devices not intended for pulse width modulated power might be damaged when connected to the RCA output. Loads higher than the specified maximum output current might damage the Telescope Interface Module. Do not connect electronic sensitive equipment to this power output (e.g. a camera)
- The Telescope Interface Module can withstand temperatures between -40°C to +85°C. The Telescope Interface Module is not designed to run outside of this temperature range.
- The Telescope Interface Module is not designed to be weather resistant - please ensure a proper operating environment.
- Please do not operate the Telescope Interface Module in a high electromagnetic radiation environment (EMR). The T.I.M. contains sensitive low voltage CMOS devices that might not operate correctly in a high EMR environment.
- The Telescope Interface Module can be cleaned with a damp cloth when the power is turned off. Water or other fluids must not enter the Telescope Interface Module since it can cause permanent damage. Do not use other cleaning solutions such as alcohol based cleaners.

In case of any hardware problems please contact our technical service department - before you call make sure you the software and hardware version number (see section settings).

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## **Software Installation**

## 1 - Installing the Telescope Interface Module

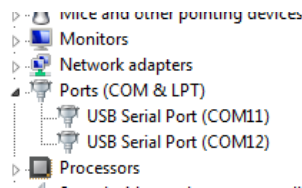
### 1.1 - Installing the USB Driver

The Telescope Interface Module (T.I.M) can be operated using the hand-paddle or using the Telescope Interface Control Application. Communication can occur via USB connection (max. 30m) or Ethernet (max. 100m) connection. When using the T.I.M solely via the Ethernet connection, no drivers need to be installed. When using the USB connection, most operating systems will recognize and install the driver automatically. Please keep in mind that a USB connection is necessary for performing firmware updates.

#### 1.1.1 - Installing the USB Driver under Windows

Most recent Windows™ versions will automatically recognize the USB connection and install the correct drivers. Older Windows systems will require a manual driver installation. Windows based drivers are provided on the software disk in the driver folder. If the driver is not automatically installed, insert the system disk and install the FTDI driver.

Please verify the correct driver installation. Under Windows check the device manager for the correct driver installation. The Telescope Interface Module will show up as two consecutive USB serial port drivers.



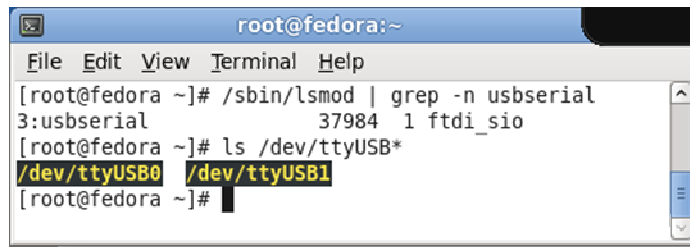
The Telescope Interface Module provides two virtual COM ports; one COM Port is used for remote operation whereas the second COM port is used for fail-safe firmware update. The user should try to establish communication using the lower COM port first; if this is not successful, please use the other COM port.

#### 1.1.2 - Installing the USB driver under Linux

All supported Linux distributions (Linux Kernel version 2.6.x) have the correct FTDI driver built into the kernel. If you are using a custom kernel please make sure that the kernel supports the ftdi\_sio driver. Connect the T.I.M to the USB port and apply power. Please use the following command to ensure that the driver was loaded correctly:

```
sudo /sbin/lsmmod | grep -n usbserial
```

Please verify that according to the console output that the driver was loaded.



```

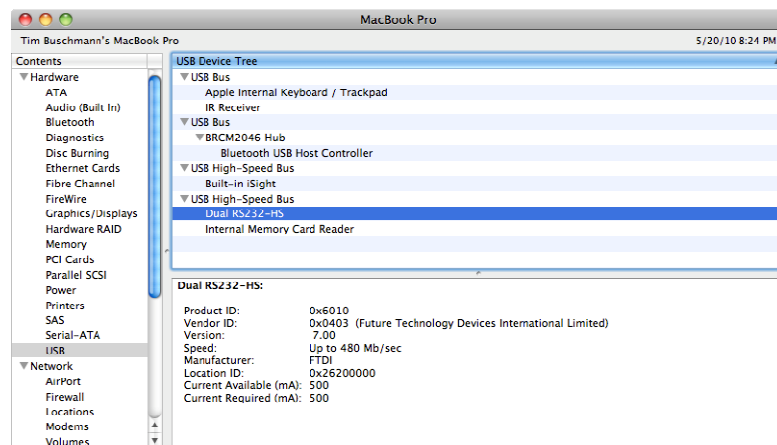
root@fedora:~
File Edit View Terminal Help
[root@fedora ~]# /sbin/lsmmod | grep -n usbserial
3:usbserial          37984 1 ftdi_sio
[root@fedora ~]# ls /dev/ttyUSB*
/dev/ttyUSB0 /dev/ttyUSB1
[root@fedora ~]#

```

The command `ls /dev/ttyUSB*` will list all USB serial ports of the system. The Telescope Interface Module will show up as two consecutive serial ports. Usually the lower port (in this case the `ttyUSB0`) device will be the communications port. The control software application will automatically enumerate the correct devices. Most Linux distributions will restrict the serial port access to the root user. Either run the application as super user (not recommended) or change the access permission of the serial device entries. Please refer to the Linux distribution documentation for further details.

### 1.1.3 - Installing USB Drivers under Mac OS-X

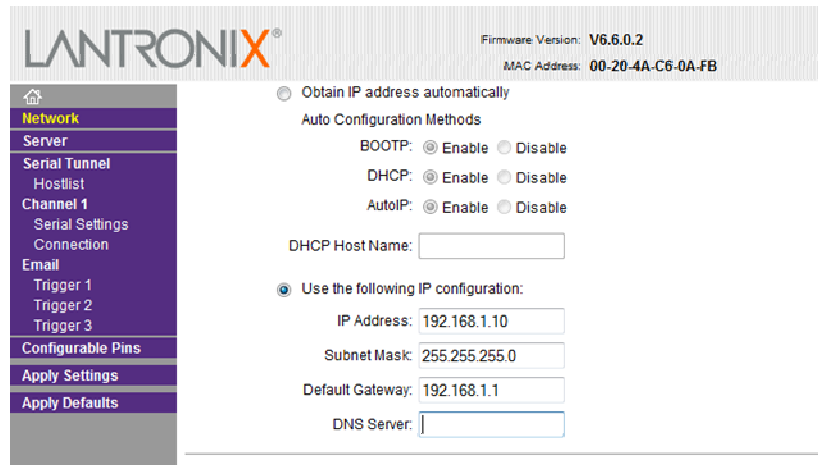
Mac OS-X unfortunately does not come with FTDI drivers installed. The correct FTDI drivers are provided on the software CD as dmg file. Please mount the dmg file and double click the FTDI installer (FTDIUSBSerialDriver\_10\_4\_10\_5\_10\_6) and finish the guided setup. Please connect the Telescope Interface Module to a free USB port, apply power and verify the driver installation using the Systems Profiler which can be found in the application's "utilities" folder.



The driver will show up as Dual RS232-HS entry in the USB device tree under Hardware/USB. The Telescope Interface Module will enumerate the correct device entries automatically.

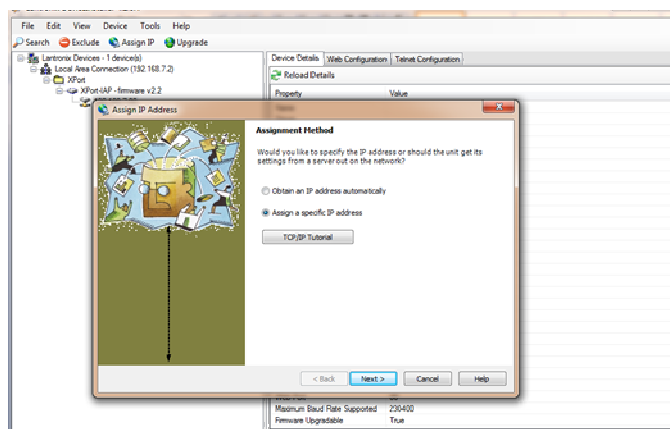
## 1.2 -Preparing the Network connection

Connect the Telescope Interface Module to a hub or switch on your local network. The Ethernet connection is preconfigured to use the static IP address 192.168.1.10 per default. The connection settings can be configured via web-browser if the client is on the same sub-net (e.g. by changing your IP address temporarily to 192.168.1.1). Open a browser and enter 192.168.1.10 into the address bar - login with the user name *admin* and leave the password field empty.



Click on *Network* to configure or change the network settings. Apply the settings and verify the new IP address by entering it into the web-browser. If the user cannot use the web client configuration, please use the LANTRONIX™ configuration utility (*DeviceInstaller*) instead.

The configuration utility is provided on the software disk; please install the provided application and follow the on-screen directions. Lantronix's Device Installer will find the Ethernet device (*listed as XPort*) automatically based on its hardware address even if the subnet mask differs. If asked the user may provide the hardware address which can be found on the Telescope Interface Module (e.g. MAC: 00-20-4A-8A-DF-80). Click on [Assign IP] in the tool-bar and follow the configuration dialog.





A correct configuration can easily be tested by entering the newly assigned IP address into a web-browser which should bring up the configuration web-client. The more experienced user can also use ping and telnet (port 10001) to verify a correct IP assignment.

***Note:** DHCP configuration is possible but not recommended since the assigned IP address can change if the DHCP server is not configured correctly. A changing IP address makes it difficult to set up the network connection in the control application since the IP address needs to be known. Some routers allow the static allocation of a fixed IP address for DHCP clients - in this case a dynamic address assignment is possible.*

Please do not change the serial device settings since these are essential for a correct communication with the Telescope Interface Module. If settings were changed accidentally, please verify the following parameters under Serial Settings:

**Serial settings:** 57600 bps, 8 bits, no parity and one stop bit (57600,8,N,1) without hardware or software flow-control

**LANTRONIX®** Firmware Version: V6.6.0.2  
MAC Address: 00-20-4A-C6-0A-FB

### Serial Settings

**Channel 1**

☐ Disable Serial Port

**Port Settings**

Protocol: RS232 Flow Control: None

Baud Rate: 57600 Data Bits: 8 Parity: None Stop Bits: 1

**Pack Control**

☐ Enable Packing

Idle Gap Time: 12 msec

Match 2 Byte Sequence: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Match Bytes: 0x00 0x00 (Hex)

Send Frame Immediate: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Send Trailing Bytes: ☒ None ☐ One ☐ Two

**Flush Mode**

**Flush Input Buffer**

With Active Connect: ☐ Yes ☒ No

With Passive Connect: ☐ Yes ☒ No

At Time of Disconnect: ☐ Yes ☒ No

**Flush Output Buffer**

With Active Connect: ☐ Yes ☒ No

With Passive Connect: ☐ Yes ☒ No

At Time of Disconnect: ☐ Yes ☒ No

***Note:** Lantronix's configuration software is only available for current Windows systems. If you need to configure the Lantronix device under other operating systems, please use the web configuration utility. If Windows Explorer 8 does not display the configuration page correctly, please enable the Compatibility View under the Tools menu.*

## 2 - Installing the Software

### 2.1 - Installation under Windows

The windows installer supports all recent Windows™ versions (7, Vista and XP<sup>\*2</sup>). The installer comes as 32bit application which is also fully supported under a 64bit environment. Insert the installer CD and launch the setup application. The installer will place an application shortcut into the start-menu; a desktop launcher as well as a quick-launcher can be installed during the setup. The installer will create program directory and the folder RCOS will be installed in the user's directory for various settings and data recording files. No special permissions are needed and the application can run under a multi-user environment. Should the installation not succeed, please install the latest .Net framework using Windows Update or via Microsoft's website.

*Note: It is possible that certain virus scanners and/or firewall issue a warning after the application is started. The warning is issued since the application is using the network to communicate to the Telescope Interface Module. Please issue an exception for this application if needed!*

*Note<sup>\*2</sup>: If the application fails to start due to incorrect side-by-side configuration, please install the Visual C++ run-time components. The visual C++ runtime components are provided via the executable vcredist\_x86.exe in the utilities directory on the install CD or might be downloaded from Microsoft's website.*

### 2.2 - Installation under Linux

Unfortunately, due to the variety and non-conformity of many Linux distributions, a universal binary cannot be provided for the Linux platform. Instead, RC Optical systems has decided to provide the source-code to compile the application so that it can run on almost every Linux based platform. The source-code is open source and will be provided under the LGPL2 license which is attached at the end of this document. The communication library is provided as pre-compiled static link library. Please refer to the Linux specific documentation provided with the latest tar.gz installation package. In order to compile and install the application the Qt4 SDK ([qt.nokia.com](http://qt.nokia.com)) and development environment has to be installed. The installation is dependent on the Linux distribution used. The following example installs the correct packages for the Fedora 12 distribution:

```
yum groupinstall "Development Tools"
yum install qt4 qt4-devel
```

Alternatively, the Qt4 development can be installed using the Qt4 binary installer from [qt.nokia.com](http://qt.nokia.com). The Telescope Interface Module application is provided as tar.gz file. Please copy the file into the user home directory and unpack the tar file using:

```
tar xzvf TimCtrlApp-x.xx.tar.gz
```

The tar file will create a new directory - please change into the application directory and issue the following commands to build and install the application:

### Building the application for 32-bit Linux Kernel

```
qmake TIMCtrlApp32.pro
make
sudo ./install.sh
```

### Building the application for 64-bit Linux Kernel

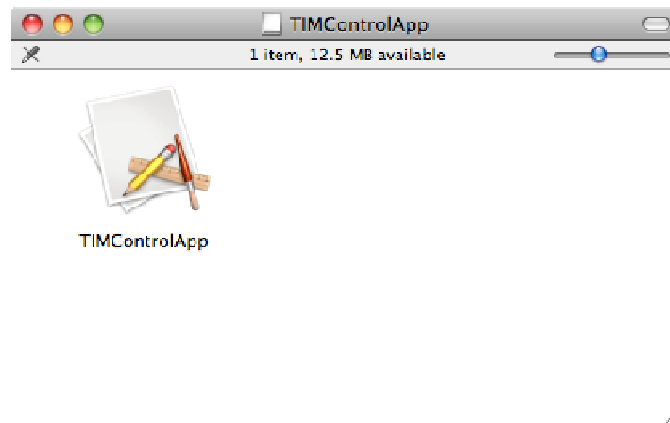
```
qmake TIMCtrlApp64.pro
make
sudo ./install.sh
```

The install shell script will install the application under `/opt/rcos`; the application can be found in the `/opt/rcos/bin` directory. Please add the executable path to the system's `$PATH` variable and/or create a application link on the desktop or within the application menu. Please also verify the correct permissions of the application directory since these have not been set by the installer. Start the application by entering `/opt/rcos/bin/TIMCtrlApp` into the console window

The T.I.M. device will show up as `/dev/ttyUSB[#]` serial device - please make sure that you have the necessary permissions to open the device before running the installation.

## 2.3 - Installation under Mac OS-X

The TIMControl Application is provided as Intel binary and runs on recent Leopard / Snow Leopard (10.5 and 10.6) MAC OS versions. The application should run on Intel based 10.4 versions but this will not be supported. The application is delivered as standard dmg file. Either run the application straight from the dmg file or install it by dragging the application into the applications folder.



*Note: Mac OS-X enumerates serial devices a little differently than other operating systems. The TIM device will require that a special driver will be installed first (which is provided on the software disk). The*

*TIM application will enumerate all USB based serial devices. The user may have to try various ports in order to pick the correct port!*

## **Using the Telescope Control Application**

## 3 - Using the Telescope Interface Control Application

### 3.1 - Introduction

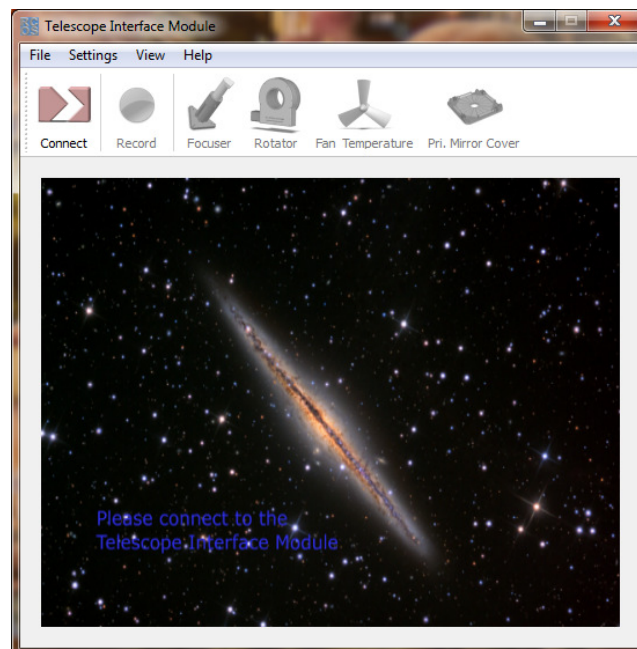
The Telescope Control Application fully supports remote operation of the Telescope Interface Module (TIM). This should be the preferred way of operating the TIM since this application supports more functionality than using the hand-controller. While the TIM is operated remotely, the usage of the hand-paddle is disabled. The application supports two forms of communication with the Telescope Interface Module: either USB or Ethernet. The USB connection requires the correct installation of the drivers - please refer to the driver section of this manual. The Ethernet connection comes preconfigured with the following IP address:

```
IP: 192.168.1.10  
Subnet: 255.255.255.0  
TIM TCP Port 10001
```

If the user is not on the same subnet or wishes to change the IP address, please refer the section "[Preparing the Network Connection](#)" in this manual.

### 3.2 - Connecting to the Telescope Interface Module

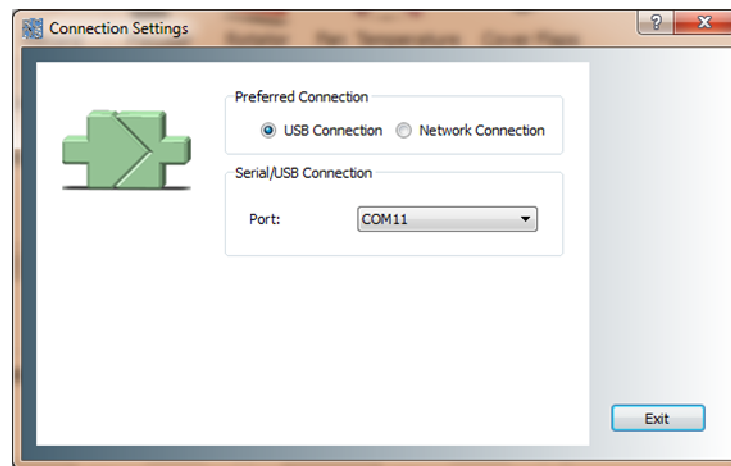
After the application has been installed successfully, connect the Telescope Interface Module to your computer using either USB or Ethernet, apply power and turn on the system. Next, start the control software.



Before hitting the connect button in the toolbar, the user must specify the connection parameters in the settings menu:

### 3.2.1 - Using the USB connection

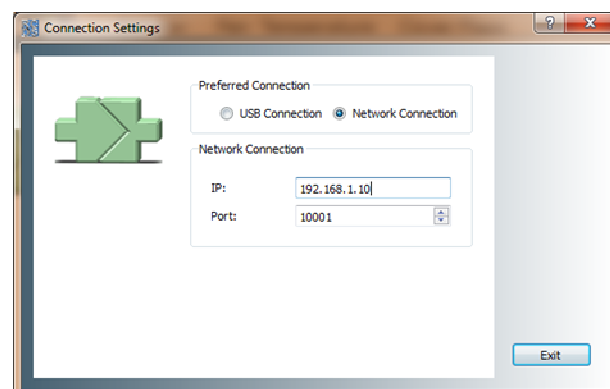
Choose "USB Connection" as the preferred connection method when the Telescope Interface Module is connected via USB. The dialog will list all possible serial COM ports - please select the correct COM port for the Telescope Interface Module.



Note: The Telescope Interface Module shows up as two virtual COM ports usually enumerated in succession (e.g. COM11, COM12). Under normal circumstances, the lower COM port is for remote operation of the Telescope Interface Module; the higher port is used for firmware updates. The user should try to use the lower COM port for a first connection try - if this is not successful, please try another port.

### 3.2.2 - Using the Ethernet Connection

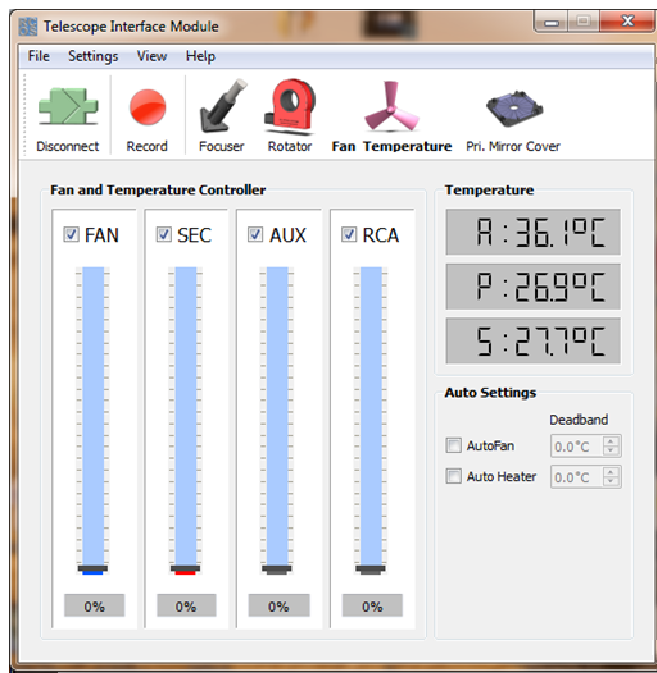
In order to use the Ethernet connection, please select "Network Connection" as the preferred connection method. The dialog will ask for an IP address and the correct application port. The port by default is 10001 if the user did not change the port address in the configuration utility. Please enter the IP address that was assigned during the initial setup.



*Note: Please make sure that your firewall settings allow the Ethernet connection to port 10001.*

### 3.2.3 -Connecting to the Telescope Interface Module

Click on the connect button in the toolbar. If the connection parameter was set correctly, the connect button will change its appearance as shown below. The application will show the Fan & Temperature Controller tab and the temperature display should update the temperature continuously.



The application will remember the connection configuration for the next startup.

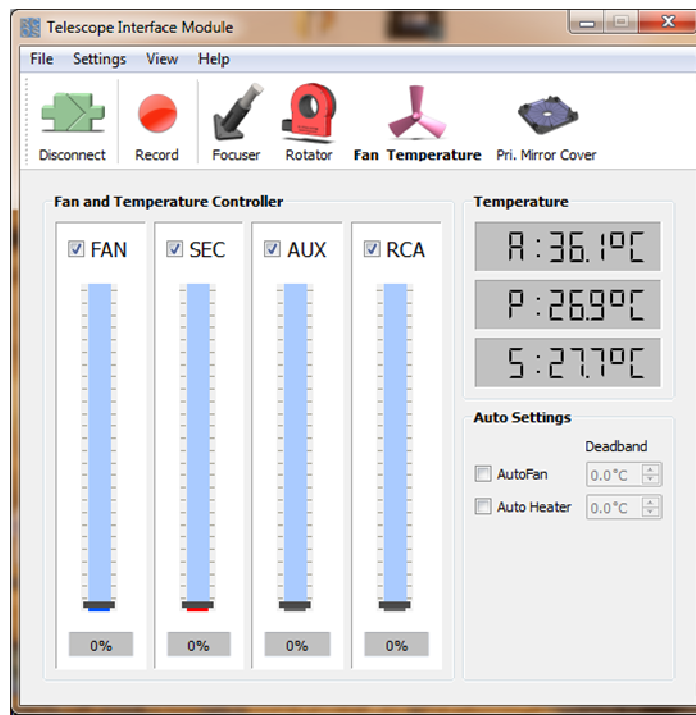
*Note: Should the application not connect to the system, please verify the following:*

- Is the TIM connected correctly via USB or Ethernet to your computer?
- Is the TIM power up and ready to be operated?
- If USB is used, did the driver install correctly?
- If USB is used, did you choose the correct COM port?
- If the Ethernet connection is used, was the correct IP address assigned and is the IP address on the same network as the control computer? Use the ping command to verify that the TIM can be reached via network.
- If the Ethernet connection is used, please verify the computers firewall settings. Most Windows Systems will ask the user when an application tries to connect to a system via network and an appropriate permission is needed!
- The connection will not succeed if another computer is currently connected to the TIM!
- USB requires less configuration - if the Ethernet connection is not successful, please try the USB connection first.



### 3.3 - Fan and Temperature Control

To change to the Temperature and Fan Control tab, please click on the Fan/Temperature icon in the toolbar.



#### 3.3.1 - Manually changing pulse width modulated power

The left four sliders in the control window are used to control the pulse width modulation (PWM) for either the fans, the secondary heater, the auxiliary power (if installed) or the external RCA power. The power is regulated from 0 to 100%; each slider can be disabled by deselecting the appropriate checkbox. Manually setting the power can only occur if the auto-mode is disabled. Either use the mouse to select and move the slider or conveniently use the mouse wheel to change the slider position.

#### 3.3.2 - Temperature Display

The temperature display shows the temperature of all three temperature sensors of the system. The upper temperature display shows the **Ambient** temperature. The middle display shows the temperature of the **Primary** mirror temperature and the lower display shows the temperature of the **Secondary** mirror. The temperature display can show the temperature in either °C or °F - the user can toggle between both views under the menu [View ->Temperatures].

#### 3.3.3 - Auto mode settings

The fan and secondary heater can be operated in automatic mode by selecting the correct checkbox in the auto-settings section. The auto-fan algorithm implements a simple proportional regulator and uses

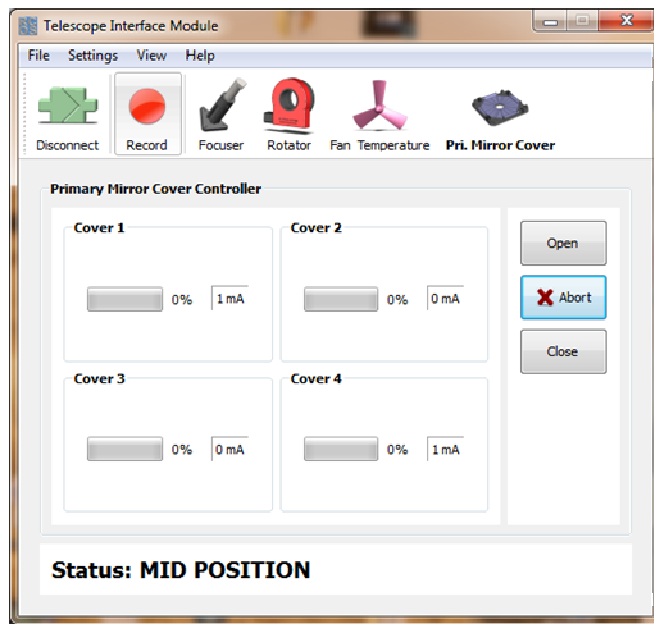
as input the difference between the ambient and primary temperature. If this temperature is within the dead-band specified by the user, the fan power will be turned off.

The secondary heater in auto-mode implements a full PID regulator. The PID coefficients have been predetermined for the delivered system but may be altered by the user. The secondary heater PID uses the difference between ambient temperature and secondary mirror temperature as input for the heater regulation. As is true for the fan control, the secondary heater power will be disabled when the temperature difference is within the user specified dead-band.

Both fan and secondary heater regulation coefficients can be set by the user. Please refer to the [settings section](#) for more detail.


### 3.4 - Primary Mirror Cover Control

Enable the primary mirror cover control tab by clicking on the Pri. Mirror Cover icon in the toolbar.




The cover-flap controller allows the user to remotely open or close the mirror cover if they have been installed. Otherwise, this dialog pane can be disabled in the menu [view->show Pri. Mirror Cover Tab]. The user can specify the flap speed in the settings dialog - please refer to the settings section in this manual.

#### 3.4.1- Opening the Primary Mirror Cover

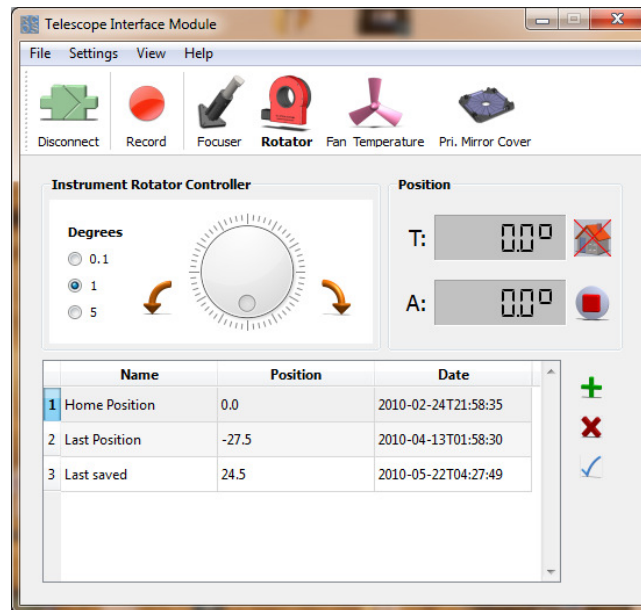
The mirror cover will open pair-wise if the user clicks the open button. The full procedure to open the mirror cover will take a few seconds during which the user can observe which flap is currently opening. Once the mirror cover is fully opened, the status display will show it accordingly. During any time, the user can stop the motion by clicking on the abort  button.

### 3.4.2 - Closing the Primary Mirror Cover

Closing the mirror cover functions accordingly. Click on the close button and observe which flap is currently moving. Once all flaps are closed, the status will be updated accordingly. Any mirror cover motion can be aborted immediately if the user clicks the abort  button.


## 3.5 - Instrument Rotator Control

Activate the Instrument Camera Rotator by clicking on the Rotator icon in the toolbar.






The Instrument Rotator allows the fine positioning of the camera with up to  $0.1^\circ$  resolution. Physically, the Instrument rotator can be operated without running into a physical limit, but the user has to pay attention not to wrap up the camera cabling around the rotation axis too much. It is recommended to only operate the rotator within plus or minus 3 full rotations ( $3 \times 360.0^\circ = 1080.0^\circ$ ). The user can specify a software limit in the settings dialog; please refer to the settings section in this manual.

### 3.5.1 - Position Display





The position display at the right top corner shows the **T**arget and **A**ctual Rotator position with a resolution of  $0.1^\circ$ . The home symbol right of the target position shows if the system has been homed. A cross through the icon  implies that the rotator has not been homed and that the true zero position is unknown; the position display will be relative to the current position.

### 3.5.2 - Homing the Instrument Rotator

Click on the  icon to home to rotator. This will initiate the homing procedure and the rotator will slew to one of its home positions. Since a full rotation needs up to 120s, the rotator has two known home positions at the  $0.0^\circ$  and  $180.0^\circ$  position; the homing procedure will finish at either position and the position display will be updated accordingly. A homing can be aborted by clicking on the  stop button. If the homing was aborted, all position information will be relative to the last know position.




A right click on the  icon will open the context menu with the options to slew back to the zero point or to slew to a predefined target position.

### 3.5.3 - Moving the Instrument Rotator

The Instrument Camera Rotator can be rotated either by moving the  dial or by clicking the left  or right  arrow. The dial can be turned using the mouse or the mouse wheel; a click on the right or left arrow will initiate a single step movement. The resolution of a single step for either the dial or single step arrows can be specified to be either 0.1°, 1° or 5°. The Camera Rotator will follow the commanded target position with a short lag; movement will cease once the target position has been reached. Any movement can be aborted by clicking the stop  button.

If the user enabled the software limits in the settings dialog, the rotator will stop movement autonomously once it reached the specified software limit. This will be indicated by a red background in the position display. The user can continue to slew the rotator as long as the target position does not exceed the software limit!

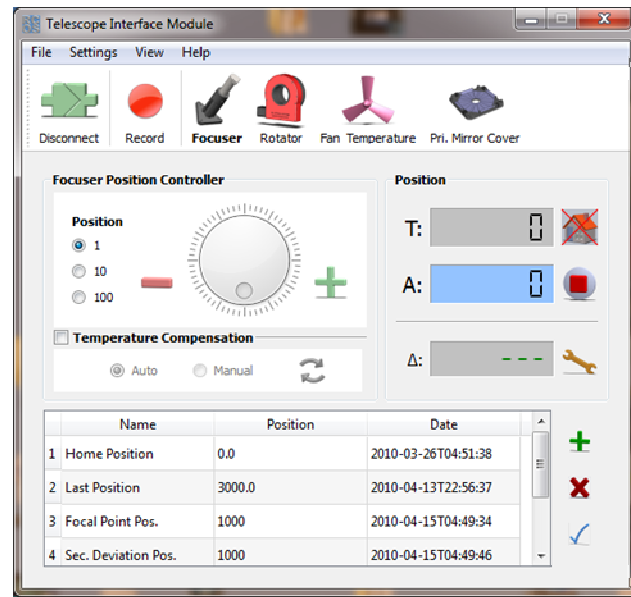
### 3.5.4 - Using the position database

The Instrument Rotator offers a simple database where the user can store and delete previously known positions. Please keep in mind that this feature is only useful if the Rotator has been homed and thus the absolute position is known. If the user clicks the  add button, a new entry will be added containing the last position and a timestamp in UTC. The new entry can be edited by clicking the *name* or *position* cell respectively. An entry can simply be deleted by clicking the delete  icon. If the user wishes to slew to a position listed in the database, please select the relevant entry and click the  ok button. If confirmed, the rotator will set the database position as the new target position and the instrument rotator will start moving.

The database will be saved automatically and is available at the next startup. The application will store a unique database for every (login based) user.


### 3.6 - Operating the Camera Focuser

Enable the Camera Focuser by clicking on the Focuser icon in the toolbar.




The Focuser Control tab allows the fine-positioning of the Camera Focuser. The Focuser position is given in steps - one step corresponds to  $1/40000^{\text{th}}$  of an inch. The control tab works similarly to the rotator controller but offers some additional features such as temperature compensation and a deviation display. The focuser is mechanically limited in its movement and thus offers two optical limit switches on both ends of the slew axis.




#### 3.6.1 - Position Display

The position display at the right top corner shows the **T**argeted and **A**ctual Focuser position in  $1/40000^{\text{th}}$  steps. The home symbol right of the target position shows if the system has been homed. A cross through the icon  implies that the focuser has not been homed yet and that the true zero position is not known; the position display will be relative to the current position. The background of the actual position can turn blue indicating that the current to the focuser motor has been disabled and thus is in a break condition.





The  $\Delta$  position display shows the deviation from the current position to either the Focal Point Position or the Secondary Deviation Position. The deviation position will be displayed once Focal Point Position and Secondary Deviation Position have been set by the user. The deviation can be displayed in either steps or inches. In order to change the deviation position display or set the Focal Point / Secondary Deviation

Position, right click on the settings symbol  besides the deviation display and click the appropriate command in the context menu.


### 3.6.2 - Homing the Camera Focuser

A click on the  icon will initiate the homing procedure of the Camera Focuser. The Focuser will slew towards its zero position until it hits the homing sensor. After a fine slew the focuser position will be set to zero and the position display will show absolute positions. The home icon will indicate that the focuser has been homed. The homing procedure can be interrupted at any time by clicking the stop  button. The homing procedure will only take a few seconds. A right click on the  icon will open the context menu with the options to slew back to the zero point or to slew to a predefined target position.




### 3.6.3 - Moving the Camera Focuser

The Camera Focuser can be moved either by moving the  dial or by clicking the plus  or minus  button. The dial can be turned using the mouse or the mouse wheel; a click on the positive or negative button will initiate a single movement. The resolution of a single step for either the dial or the single step buttons can be specified to be either 1, 10 or 100 steps. The camera focuser will follow the commanded target position with a short lag; movement will cease once the target position has been reached. Any movement can be aborted by clicking the  stop button. If enabled in the settings menu, the focuser current will be disabled after a specified timeout after the target position has been reached. If this is case, the focuser will be in a break condition and no heat will be generated by disabling the holding current.

The focuser movement is protected by optical limit switches. If the focuser runs into either limit and motion will be automatically stopped and a red background at the position display indicates that a limit-hit condition has occurred. The position count has not been lost and a new slew can be commanded. Once another slew has been commanded, the limit switch warning will disappear.

*Note: Older style focusers without optical limit switches will recognize the physical hard-limit and stop further motion; if a hard-limit was hit, the absolute position count has been lost and the rotator must be homed again. A hard-limit will also be indicated with a red background at the actual position display and no further slew commands will be accepted. The user has to acknowledge the hard-limit error by clicking the  stop button before a new slew command will be accepted.*

### 3.6.4 - Using the position database


The Camera Focuser offers a simple database which allows the user to store and delete previously known positions. Please keep in mind that this feature is only useful if the Rotator has been homed and thus the absolute position is known. If the user clicks the  add button, a new entry will be added containing the last position and a timestamp in UTC. The new entry can be edited by clicking the *name* or *position* cell respectively. An entry can simply be deleted by clicking the delete  icon. If the user wishes to slew to a position listed in the database, please select the relevant entry and click the  ok button. If confirmed, the focuser will set the database position as the new target position and the camera focuser will start moving.

The database will be stored automatically and is available at the next startup. The application will store a unique database for every login-user. Entries will be added automatically into the database when the user sets the Focal Point Position and/or Secondary Deviation Position. Existing Focal Point / Secondary Deviation Positions will be overwritten.

### 3.6.5 - Focuser Temperature Compensation


The Camera Focuser can automatically compensate for temperature dependent focus shifts. Temperature Compensation will be enabled by setting a check-mark into the Temperature Compensation check-box. Temperature compensation can be operated in either manual mode or in automatic mode.

In automatic mode, temperature compensation is calculated every 60 seconds and the focuser position is adjusted if a user settable position threshold is exceeded. Temperature Compensation is based on the ambient temperature which is averaged over a certain time period to mitigate short-term temperature effects. Please keep in mind that temperature compensation might have unwanted effects when exposing images. In this case manual mode temperature compensation might be the better choice

In manual mode, temperature compensation will only be applied to the focuser position when the user hits the  sync button. Temperature effects that have been accumulated since the last sync event will be applied to the focuser position if the effects exceed a user settable threshold.

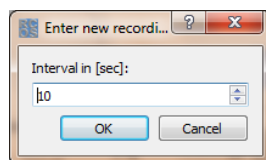
For a detailed explanation of the temperature compensation parameters, please refer to the [settings section](#) in this manual.

### 3.7 - Recording Operation's Data

The control application supports the recording of various operation variables while the Telescope Interface Module is in operation. Data will be stored in the user's "USER-HOME/RCOS" directory as a Microsoft Excel™ / Oracle's Open Office™ compatible csv file. The filename contains the current timestamp in UTC when recording was started; every time a recording is started, a new file will be created. Recording can be enabled or disabled using the  recording button in the tool-bar or using the record data command in the file menu. The recorded data contains temperature information of all sensors, the power settings for each PWM channel and the Focuser & Rotator position in the following format:

Date	Time	Ambient Temp.	Primary Temp.	Secondary Temp.	Fan PWM	Sec PWM	Rotator Position	Focuser Position
4/14/2010	21:03:37	31.06	31.81	25.21	0	0	76.3	14380

The recording interval can be specified in seconds under [Settings->Set Recording Interval].



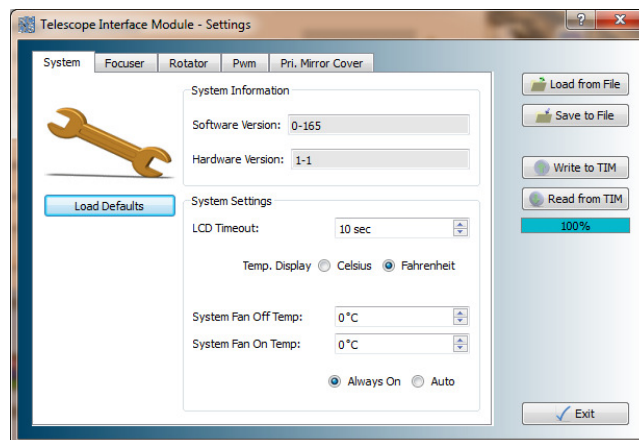
### 3.8 - Telescope Interface Module Settings

The system settings dialog is exposed via the menu [Settings->TIM Settings]. This dialog allows the user to alter various system parameters of the Telescope Interface Module. Please keep in mind that configuration parameters are stored in the system memory of the TIM controller. Changes made in this GUI have to be successfully written to the Telescope Interface Module before they take any effect.

When the settings dialog is activated for the first time, the application will synchronize with the Telescope Interface Module; alternatively, the user can reload the parameters by clicking the <Read from TIM> button. After changes are made, the user can decide to save these parameters to a local file as backup (using the <Save to File> button). Once changes have been made, the parameters need to be downloaded to the TIM control system by clicking the <Write to TIM> button.

Any changes to the system parameters greatly impact the system functionality. As a safety, the default settings can be loaded by clicking the <Load Defaults> button. Default parameters have to be written to the TIM as well before they have any effects.

#### 3.8.1 - General System Parameters



##### Software / Hardware Version

Both parameters are read-only and indicate the current firmware/hardware version. Please write down the version numbers before calling technical support.

##### LCD Timeout

This parameter sets the timeout for the LCD display background. The LCD background light is turned on when the user is operating the TIM via the hand-controller. After a timeout of no user interaction, the background light automatically turns off. The default is 30 seconds.

##### Temp. Display

This parameter changes how temperatures are displayed on the LCD display of the Telescope Interface Module. This setting does not influence how temperatures are displayed in the software control



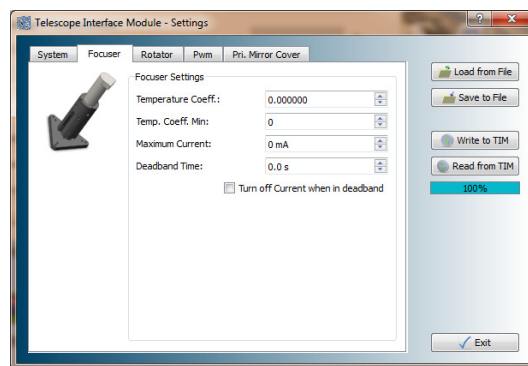
application neither how certain temperature parameters are calculated. Internally, the Telescope Interface Module handles temperatures in degrees Celsius.

### System Fan Settings

These two temperature values specified in Celsius determine when the internal cooling fan is engaged. Once the internal temperature exceeds the ON temperature, the internal fan is turned on. If the internal temperature is below the OFF temperature, the fan will be turned off. Default ON: 75°C OFF: 55°C

If *always on* is clicked, the fan will always run independent of the internal temperature. Otherwise, the fan will operate according to the On/Off temperature settings.

### 3.8.2 - Camera Focuser Settings



#### Temperature Coefficient

The temperature coefficient  $\phi_{foc}$  determines the amount of temperature compensation of the focuser. Temperature compensation is based on the temperature change  $(T_t - T_{t-1})$  of the ambient temperature sensor. The focuser implements a simple proportional control based on a (currently 60 second) ambient temperature average.. The corrected step count  $\Delta cnt$  is calculated as follows:

$$\Delta cnt = 100 \cdot (T_t - T_{t-1}) \cdot \phi_{foc}$$

Temperatures are always given in degrees Celsius!

#### Temperature Coefficient Minimum

The temperature compensation is only applied to the focuser position if the calculated step count exceeds a certain minimum threshold. This minimum threshold can be set with this parameter. Default setting is 400.

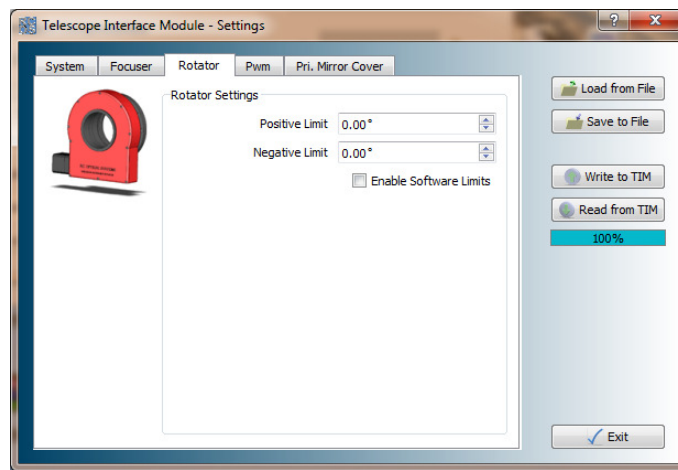
#### Maximum Current

This parameter specifies the maximum allowable current of the focuser motor. This is a security setting in case the focuser runs into its physical limit. Once the current threshold has been exceeded, the motor power will be turned off. Default is 1700mA. *Please note that the old-style focuser requires higher current settings since it is slewing into its physical hard-limit to detect a home position (use 4000mA).*

### Dead-band Settings

The Telescope Interface Module applies a holding current to ensure that the Focuser Motor stays in a certain position. The Focuser is designed to stay at a stable position without the need of a holding current which injects heat to the system. The user can specify that the holding current will be turned off when the target position has been reached and a certain timeout has passed. The timeout can be specified in 0.1 second increments. This dead-band behavior can be enabled or disabled by setting a check-mark into the relevant check-box.

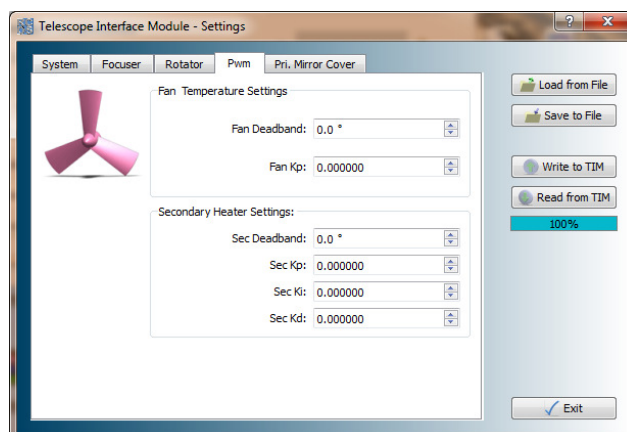
### 3.8.3 - Instrument Rotator Settings



The Rotator Settings set the parameters of the software limits. If *Enable Software Limits* is checked, the focuser will stop movement once the current position exceeds a software limit. Software limits are specified in degrees for both the positive and negative limit. A reasonable software limit for example would be 3 full rotations; thus the correct value to enter would be  $3 \times \pm 360.0^\circ = \pm 1080.0^\circ$ . Software limits by default are disabled!

### 3.8.4 - Temperature and Fan Settings

The parameters of the "Fan and Temperature Settings" tab specify the regulation parameters of the fans and the secondary mirror heater. All parameters are calculated based on temperatures in Celsius.



### Fan Deadband

Once the temperature difference between the primary mirror temperature and the ambient temperature are below this threshold, the fans will be turned off.

### Fan Kp

The fan regulator is purely proportional. Input to the regulator is the temperature difference:

$$\varepsilon_{temp} = |T_{ambient} - T_{primary}|$$

The fan PWM output is calculated via the formula given the proportional coefficient  $\phi_{fan}$

$$pwm_{fan} = 100 \cdot \varepsilon_{temp} \cdot \phi_{fan}$$

The PWM<sub>fan</sub> range is from 0 to 255.

### Secondary Set-point

The secondary heater PID control tries to regulate the secondary heater to a certain set-point above (+) or below(-) the ambient temperature. The error input of the PID is calculated as:

$$\varepsilon_{sec} = (temp_{ambient} - temp_{secondary} - \Gamma_{setpoint})$$

### Kp, Kd, Ki Coefficients

K<sub>p</sub> specifies the proportional coefficient, K<sub>d</sub> the differential coefficient and K<sub>i</sub> the integral coefficient. The PID is implemented as discrete PID according to *Toochinda, V. (2009). Digital PID Controllers, retrieved from www.dewinz.com.*

At each discrete time-step (d<sub>t</sub>=5s) the PID is updated as follows:

$$\varepsilon_2 = \varepsilon_1$$

$$\varepsilon_1 = \varepsilon_0$$

$$K1 = kp + ki + kd$$

$$K2 = -(kp + 2 \cdot kd)$$

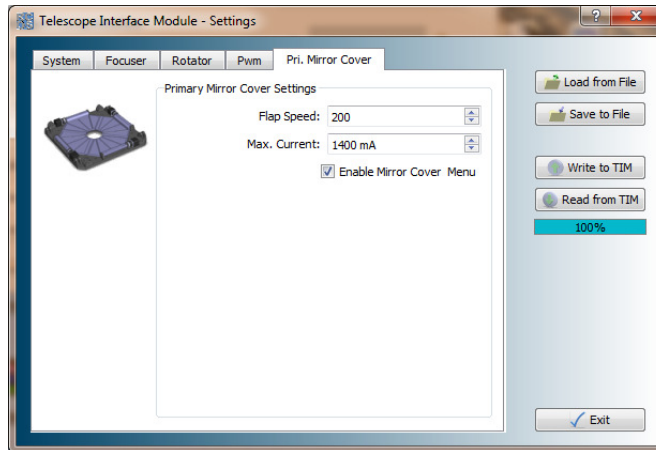
$$K3 = kd$$

$$\varepsilon_0 = 100 \cdot (temp_{ambient} - temp_{secondary} - \Gamma_{setpoint})$$

$$u_t = u_{t-1} + K1 \cdot \varepsilon_0 + K2 \cdot \varepsilon_1 + K3 \cdot \varepsilon_2$$

Temperatures are always given in degrees Celsius. There are various methods for tuning a PID servo - please refer to common literature for tuning the PID servo. The data recording feature will provide sufficient data feedback for the tuning algorithms. The Secondary heater PID comes with factory determined coefficients - in most cases this will be sufficient.

### 3.8.5 - Primary Mirror Cover Settings



This settings tab sets speed and maximum current parameters of the cover flaps.

#### Flap Speed

This parameter is a value between 1 and 255 specifying the pulse width of the output power. Depending on the motor used, it is possible that a certain pulse width value must be exceeded before the torque is sufficient to open the flaps. Default is 140.

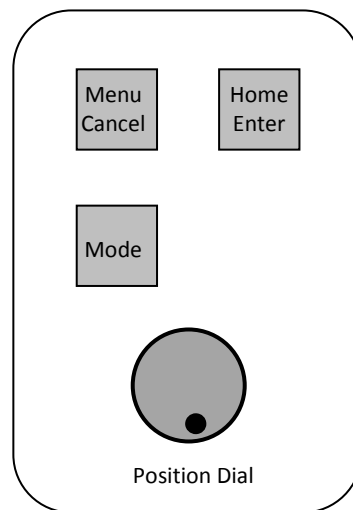
#### Maximum Current

This parameter specifies the maximum current before motor power is disabled. Default is 700mA.

# **Using the Telescope Control Hand-Controller**

## 4 - Using the Hand-Controller

The Telescope Interface Module was designed to be operated remotely. The user can easily connect a laptop or net-book to the controller and do local adjustments if necessary. Using the Ethernet connection with a wireless router will make the remote operation even simpler. Nonetheless, a hand-paddle is provided for basic control purposes right at the module. A LCD module provides necessary feedback when using the hand-controller. Remote operation is given higher priority; while the Telescope Interface Module is in remote operation, it cannot be controlled using the hand-controller. Once the application disconnects the connection, control will be returned to the Telescope Interface Module.



Use the **Menu/Cancel** button to scroll through the various T.I.M. functions. The **Menu/Cancel** button is also used to cancel a selection or to return from a sub-menu. For example, press the **Menu/Cancel** button to cancel a request to slew home while in Focus or Instrument Rotator mode.

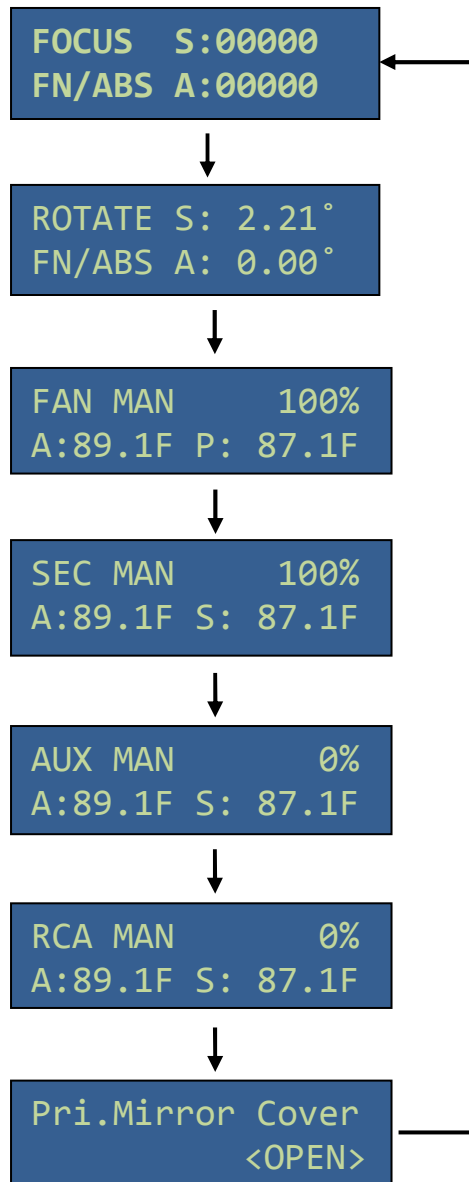
Use the **Home/Enter** button to enter into sub-menus pertinent to any given function, and to confirm a prompt for action. For example, pressing the **Home/Enter** button while in either Focus or Instrument Rotator mode will cause the 'Confirm Slew Home' prompt to be displayed. Pressing the **Home/Enter** button again would then initiate a slew to home position.

The **Position Dial** knob is used to set the position or power for the various modes. While in Focus or Instrument rotator modes, use the dial knob to change position. While in Fan, Secondary heater, or Auxiliary output modes, use the dial knob to change the power setting.

The **Mode** button scrolls between modes of operation available to any given function.

## 4.1 - Menu sequence

The following diagram shows the different T.I.M. functions when scrolling through the menu using the **Menu/Cancel** button:



The primary mirror cover menu can be disabled using the TIM Control Application using the settings menu in case that the primary mirror covers are not installed.

## 4.2 - Focuser Control

The TIM's default mode after power up is Focus or can be placed in focus mode by scrolling through the functions with the **Menu/Cancel** button.

When in focus mode the following information is displayed:



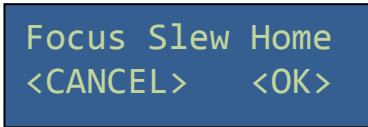
```
FOCUS S:00000
FN/ABS A:00000
```

There are two displayed focus positions: The **Set Point**, which is the target position, and **Actual**, which is the true focuser position. Each count corresponds to  $1/40,000^{\text{th}}$  inch of secondary mirror movement, which is approximately 40 times the focus tolerance of a typical f/9 RC. The actual focus position is displayed along with the desired position so that any position errors, which can occur with increased mechanical resistance, can be easily detected. The TIM has been tuned by default to balance stability with accuracy; typically there will be no difference between actual and set focus positions but a difference of a few counts is well within the design parameters and well within the telescope focus tolerance.

The position dial **Sensitivity** is displayed on the left side of the lower line. The sensitivity is set by toggling the **Mode** button on the hand controller. The available sensitivities are: Super-Fine (SF), Fine (FN), Coarse (CS), and Off (--). Use the Off-setting to prevent inadvertent changes of focus while imaging.

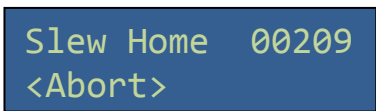
To change focus simply rotate the position dial and the focus position will change in accordance with the sensitivity setting. Rotate clockwise to increase focus position (move the secondary mirror toward the primary mirror), and counter-clockwise to decrease focus position (move secondary mirror away from primary mirror).

The next field on the lower line of the display is **Position Mode**. The two available position modes are Relative (*Rel*) and Absolute (*Abs*) positioning. In Absolute mode the focus position is relative to the fully retracted secondary actuator position. The secondary actuator contains a precise optical limit sensor which is detected during the homing procedure, and is a highly repeatable reference point. To place the TIM into absolute positioning mode, move the focuser to the Home position by pressing the **Home/Enter** button.



```
Focus Slew Home
<CANCEL> <OK>
```

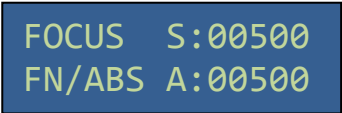
Press the **Home/Enter** button again to confirm the home slew, or the **Menu/Cancel** button to cancel.



```
Slew Home 00209
<Abort>
```



During a home slew the focus position is displayed continuously. Pressing the Menu/Cancel button will abort the home slew. Once the home sensor is detected, the focuser will initiate a fine slew to detect the precise home position. After this the focuser moves to position 500.



```

FOCUS  S:00500
FN/ABS A:00500
  
```

***Note:** When the focuser slews into the optical limit, the slew will be stopped and the focuser will slew off the limit automatically by 500 counts. The behavior for old-style focusers will be different: If a hard-limit was tripped, the focuser will display an error. The user will need to press the **Menu/Cancel** button to reset the hard-limit error before another slew will be accepted. If a hard-limit was encountered, the homing position has been lost and the focuser needs to be homed again.*

### 4.3 - Instrument Rotator Control

To place the TIM in Instrument Rotator mode, toggle the **Menu/Cancel** button until the Rotator screen is displayed.



```

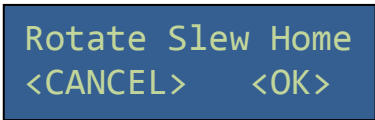
ROTATE S:022.1°
FN/ABS A:022.1°
  
```

There are two displayed rotator positions in units of degrees of revolution: The **Set Point** is the target position, and **Actual** is the instantaneous rotator position. The instrument rotator uses a high quality stepper motor which drives a worm gear. The overall step resolution of the instrument rotator is 1/200 degree of revolution, and the slew speed is 3.5 degrees/second. When the TIM commands the rotator to slew to a new position, the **Set Point** is position is displayed and the **Actual** instantaneous position is displayed as the rotator is slewing. The slew is stopped when the **Set Point** and **Actual** position are equal. A slew of 360 degrees of instrument rotation takes approximately 120 seconds. A slew can be aborted by pressing the **Menu/Cancel** button.

The position dial **Sensitivity** is displayed on the left side of the lower line. The sensitivity is set by toggling the **Mode** button on the hand controller. The available sensitivities are: Super-Fine (SF), Fine (FN), Coarse (CS), and Off (--). Use the Off-setting to prevent inadvertent change of rotation while imaging.

To move the rotator, simply rotate the position dial and the rotator position will change in accordance with the sensitivity setting. Rotate clockwise to increase rotator position (move the rotator clockwise), and counter-clockwise to decrease rotator position (move the rotator counter-clockwise).

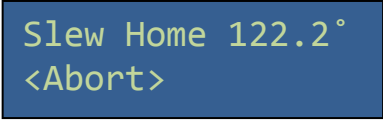
The next field on the lower line of the display is **Position Mode**. The two available position modes are Relative (Rel) and Absolute (Abs) positioning. In absolute mode the rotator position is relative to an internal reference point and positioning is repeatable between observing sessions. In order to place the TIM into absolute positioning mode, move the Rotator to the home position by pressing the **Home/Enter** button:



```

Rotate Slew Home
<CANCEL>    <OK>
  
```

Press the **Home/Enter** button to confirm the home slew, or the **Menu/Cancel** button to cancel. During a home slew the rotator position is displayed during motion. Pressing the **Menu/Cancel** button on the hand controller will abort the home slew.



Slew Home 122.2°  
<Abort>

Since a full rotation takes some time, the instrument rotator contains two internal reference points positioned 180 degrees from one another. While rotating home the rotator will stop at the first reference point detected, and the displayed positions will be reset to either 0 or 180 degrees depending of which home sensor is detected first.



ROTATE S:180.0°  
FN/ABS A:180.0°

#### 4.4 - Cooling Fan Control

To place the TIM in Cooling Fan mode toggle the **Menu/Cancel** button until the Fan Control screen is displayed.



FAN Man 088%  
A:64.2F S:64.2F

The Cooling Fan operating mode is set by toggling the **Mode** button. The available operating modes are Automatic (Auto), Manual (Man), and Off (Off). In Automatic mode the fan speed is determined by the relative Primary mirror and Ambient temperatures according to the fan servo and dead-band settings.**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** The servo settings can be altered in the settings menu using the provided software. In manual mode the fan power is set using the position dial**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** (0-100%). Rotate the knob clockwise to increase power. In Off mode the fans are turned off and the position dial is disabled.

#### 4.5 - Secondary Mirror Heater Control

To place the TIM in Secondary Mirror Heater mode toggle the **Menu/Cancel** button until the Sec screen is displayed.



SEC Man 088%  
A:64.2F S:64.2F

The secondary mirror heater operating mode is set by toggling the **Mode** button. The available operating modes are Automatic (Auto), Manual (Man), and Off (Off). In automatic mode the heater power is determined by the relative Secondary mirror and Ambient temperatures according to the secondary heater settings using the provided software. In manual mode the secondary heater power is set using the position dial (0-100%). Rotate the knob clockwise to increase power. In Off mode the secondary heater is turned off and the Adjustment knob is disabled.

## 4.6 - Auxiliary Dew Heaters

To place the TIM in Auxiliary Dew Heater mode, toggle the **Menu/Cancel** button until the AUX screen is displayed.



AUX Man 088%  
A:64.2F S:64.2F

The auxiliary dew heater is an optional equipment and might not be available on your current setup. Use the position dial to change the power setting (0-100%).

## 4.7 - External RCA Power Controller

To place the TIM in RCA mode, toggle the **Menu/Cancel** button until either the RCA screen is displayed.



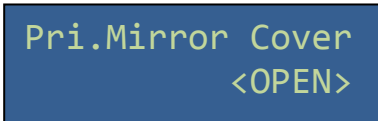
RCA Man 088%  
A:64.2F S:64.2F

Use the position dial to change the power setting (0-100%).

*Note: The external RCA is an optional pulse width modulated power output which is capable of controlling either an additional fan or heater using the RCA connector. Please do not exceed the power ratings of 12V/1A max. since it could cause damage to the Telescope Interface Module.*

## 4.8 - Primary Mirror Cover Controller

To place the TIM into the Primary Mirror Cover Controller mode, toggle the **Menu/Cancel** button until either the Primary Mirror Cover screen is displayed:



Pri.Mirror Cover  
<OPEN>

Use the **Mode** button to toggle between the Open or Close mode:

A blue rectangular LCD screen with yellow text. The top line reads "Pri.Mirror Cover" and the bottom line reads "<CLOSE>".

Pri.Mirror Cover  
<CLOSE>

Press the **Home/Enter** button to initiate the opening or closing command.

A blue rectangular LCD screen with yellow text. The top line reads "Close Mir. Cover" and the bottom line reads "<CANCEL>" followed by "<OK>".

Close Mir. Cover  
<CANCEL>      <OK>

Press the **Home/Enter** button to confirm the command or press the **Menu/Cancel** button to cancel. While the Primary Mirror Covers are opening or closing, progress information is displayed on the LCD.

A blue rectangular LCD screen with yellow text. The top line reads "MC Opening -->" and the bottom line reads "<ABORT>".

MC Opening -->  
<ABORT>

Pressing the **Menu/Cancel** button will abort the motion. This menu item can be disabled using the provided software in the TIM settings menu.

## 5 - Troubleshooting

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) Cannot connect to TIM via USB                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Verify a correct physical connection / use different USB cable</li><li>• Verify that the driver has been installed correctly</li><li>• Check that you have necessary permissions to open the serial device</li></ul>   |
| 2) Cannot connect via network                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Verify the correct IP address and subnet mask; your computer must be on the same network in order to be able to connect to the TIM</li><li>• Use the Lantronix © Device Installer to assign a correct IP address</li><li>• Do not use dynamic address assignment (DHCP)</li><li>• Use ping to verify the network connection</li><li>• If ping is successful but the connection cannot be established, make sure that your firewall allows access to port 10001</li><li>• Use telnet to test the connection to port 10001; if telnet does not connect, please verify the serial parameters (57600, 8, N, 1)</li></ul> |
| The TIM Control Application does not find any serial ports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Make sure that the driver is installed correctly</li><li>• Verify your permissions, try running the application as super user</li><li>• Make sure the TIM Controller is plugged in and powered correctly</li></ul>   |



## 6 - Appendix

### GNU LESSER GENERAL PUBLIC LICENSE Version 2.1, February 1999

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[This is the first released version of the Lesser GPL. It also counts as the successor of the [GNU Library Public License, version 2](#), hence the version number 2.1.]

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We call this license the "Lesser" General Public License because it does Less to protect the user's freedom than the ordinary General Public License. It also provides other free software developers Less of an advantage over competing non-free programs. These disadvantages are the reason we use the ordinary General Public License for many libraries. However, the Lesser license provides advantages in certain special circumstances.

For example, on rare occasions, there may be a special need to encourage the widest possible use of a certain library, so that it becomes a de-facto standard. To achieve this, non-free programs must be allowed to use the library. A more frequent case is that a free library does the same job as widely used non-free libraries. In this case, there is little to gain by limiting the free library to free software only, so we use the Lesser General Public License.

In other cases, permission to use a particular library in non-free programs enables a greater number of people to use a large body of free software. For example, permission to use the GNU C Library in non-free programs enables many more people to use the whole GNU operating system, as well as its variant, the GNU/Linux operating system.

Although the Lesser General Public License is Less protective of the users' freedom, it does ensure that the user of a program that is linked with the Library has the freedom and the wherewithal to run that program using a modified version of the Library.

The precise terms and conditions for copying, distribution and modification follow. Pay close attention to the difference between a "work based on the library" and a "work that uses the library". The former contains code derived from the library, whereas the latter must be combined with the library in order to run.

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A "library" means a collection of software functions and/or data prepared so as to be conveniently linked with application programs (which use some of those functions and data) to form executables.

The "Library", below, refers to any such software library or work which has been distributed under these terms. A "work based on the Library" means either the Library or any derivative work under copyright law: that is to say, a work containing the Library or a portion of it, either verbatim or with modifications and/or translated straightforwardly into another language. (Hereinafter, translation is included without limitation in the term "modification".)

"Source code" for a work means the preferred form of the work for making modifications to it. For a library, complete source code means all the source code for all modules it contains, plus any associated interface definition files, plus the scripts used to control compilation and installation of the library.

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(For example, a function in a library to compute square roots has a purpose that is entirely well-defined independent of the application. Therefore, Subsection 2d requires that any application-supplied function or table used by this function must be optional: if the application does not supply it, the square root function must still compute square roots.)

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Thus, it is not the intent of this section to claim rights or contest your rights to work written entirely by you; rather, the intent is to exercise the right to control the distribution of derivative or collective works based on the Library.

In addition, mere aggregation of another work not based on the Library with the Library (or with a work based on the Library) on a volume of a storage or distribution medium does not bring the other work under the scope of this License.

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Once this change is made in a given copy, it is irreversible for that copy, so the ordinary GNU General Public License applies to all subsequent copies and derivative works made from that copy.

This option is useful when you wish to copy part of the code of the Library into a program that is not a library.

4. You may copy and distribute the Library (or a portion or derivative of it, under Section 2) in object code or executable form under the terms of Sections 1 and 2 above provided that you accompany it with the complete corresponding machine-readable source code, which must be distributed under the terms of Sections 1 and 2 above on a medium customarily used for software interchange.

If distribution of object code is made by offering access to copy from a designated place, then offering equivalent access to copy the source code from the same place satisfies the requirement to distribute the source code, even though third parties are not compelled to copy the source along with the object code.

5. A program that contains no derivative of any portion of the Library, but is designed to work with the Library by being compiled or linked with it, is called a "work that uses the Library". Such a work, in isolation, is not a derivative work of the Library, and therefore falls outside the scope of this License.

However, linking a "work that uses the Library" with the Library creates an executable that is a derivative of the Library (because it contains portions of the Library), rather than a "work that uses the library". The executable is therefore covered by this License. Section 6 states terms for distribution of such executables.

When a "work that uses the Library" uses material from a header file that is part of the Library, the object code for the work may be a derivative work of the Library even though the source code is not. Whether this is true is especially significant if the work can be linked without the Library, or if the work is itself a library. The threshold for this to be true is not precisely defined by law.

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Otherwise, if the work is a derivative of the Library, you may distribute the object code for the work under the terms of Section 6. Any executables containing that work also fall under Section 6, whether or not they are linked directly with the Library itself.

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You must give prominent notice with each copy of the work that the Library is used in it and that the Library and its use are covered by this License. You must supply a copy of this License. If the work during execution displays copyright notices, you must include the copyright notice for the Library among them, as well as a reference directing the user to the copy of this License. Also, you must do one of these things:

a) Accompany the work with the complete corresponding machine-readable source code for the Library including whatever changes were used in the work (which must be distributed under Sections 1 and 2 above); and, if the work is an executable linked with the Library, with the complete machine-readable "work that uses the Library", as object code and/or source code, so that the user can modify the Library and then relink to produce a modified executable containing the modified Library. (It is understood that the user who changes the contents of definitions files in the Library will not necessarily be able to recompile the application to use the modified definitions.)

b) Use a suitable shared library mechanism for linking with the Library. A suitable mechanism is one that

(1) uses at run time a copy of the library already present on the user's computer system, rather than copying library functions into the executable, and

(2) will operate properly with a modified version of the library, if the user installs one, as long as the modified version is interface-compatible with the version that the work was made with.

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d) If distribution of the work is made by offering access to copy from a designated place, offer equivalent access to copy the above specified materials from the same place.

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It may happen that this requirement contradicts the license restrictions of other proprietary libraries that do not normally accompany the operating system. Such a contradiction means you cannot use both them and the Library together in an executable that you distribute.

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