

USER MANUAL

Gocator Measurement Tool Technical Manual

Version 3.6.5.33 Revision: A

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Contact Information

For more information, please contact LMI Technologies.

LMI Technologies, Inc. 1673 Cliveden Ave. Delta, BC V3M 6V5 Canada

Telephone: +1 604 636 1011 Facsimile: +1 604 516 8368

www.lmi3D.com

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Introduction

Several of LMI's measurement tools use complex algorithms to find features and then return measurements. This documentation describes the algorithms used by the following tools profile tools:

- Gap and Flush
- Groove
- Strip

And the following whole part tools:

- Hole
- Stud
- Opening

Profile Tools

Feature Points

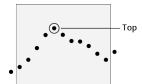
Many profile measurements involve estimating the locations of feature points and then making comparisons between the feature points. The following types of points can be identified.

Point Type

Examples

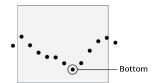
Top

Finds the point with the maximum Z value in the region of interest.



Bottom

Finds the point with the minimum Z value in the region of interest.



Left

Finds the point with the minimum X value in the region of interest.



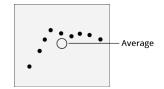
Right

Finds the point with the maximum X value in the region of interest.



Average

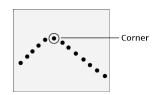
Determines the average location of points in the region of interest.



Point Type Examples

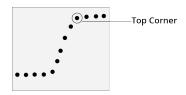
Corner

Finds a dominant corner in the region of interest, where corner is defined as a change in profile slope.



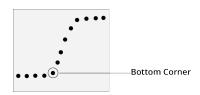
Top Corner

Finds the top-most corner in the region of interest, where corner is defined as a change in profile shape.



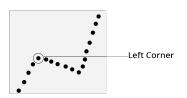
Bottom Corner

Finds the bottom-most corner in the region of interest, where corner is defined as a change in profile shape.



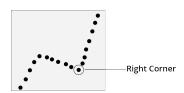
Left Corner

Finds the left-most corner in the region of interest, where corner is defined as a change in profile shape.



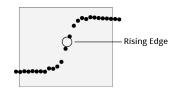
Right Corner

Finds the right-most corner in the region of interest, where corner is defined as a change in profile shape.



Rising Edge

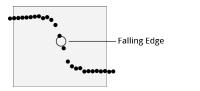
Finds a rising edge in the region of interest.



Point Type Examples

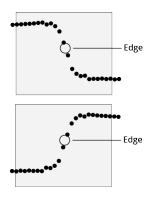
Falling Edge

Finds a falling edge in the region of interest.



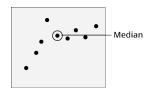
Any Edge

Finds a rising or falling edge in the region of interest.



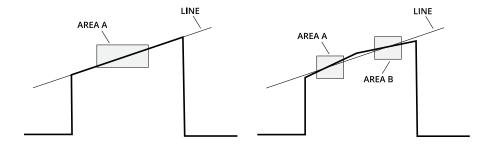
Median

Determines the median location of points in the region of interest.



Fit Lines

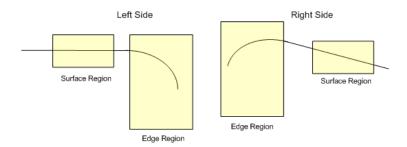
Some measurements involve estimating lines in order to measure angles or intersection points. A fit line can be calculated using data from either one or two fit areas.



A line can be defined using one or two areas. Two areas can be used to bypass discontinuity in a line segment.

Gap and Flush Algorithm

The gap and flush tools use the same algorithm to find a feature. This algorithm first searches for two regions on each side: a surface region and an edge region. (See the tables below for the parameters used by the algorithm.)

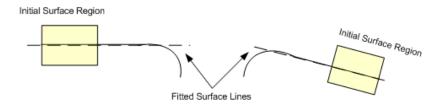


After the algorithm finds the regions, it places a <u>feature point</u> in the surface region based on a set of parameters. You can control the measurement regions for the left and the right side. A measurement region defines the region in which the measurement tool will search for the feature points. Feature points are located on each side using the following algorithm.

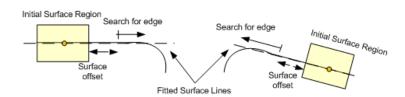
1. On the left side, search from left to right to find a surface area with data that covers at least the Surface Width. On the right side, search from right to left.



2. If a surface region is found, fit a line, called the surface line, using the data within the area.

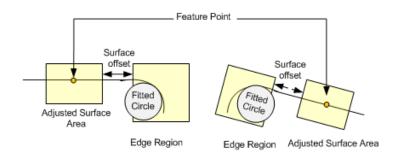


3. Search for a valid edge region that is located at least Surface Offset away from end of the surface region. If a surface region is not found, move along the search direction and repeat step 1.



A valid edge region is detected when an edge matches the Nominal Radius or when the depth exceeds the Minimum Depth. The search algorithm uses the Void Width Max to distinguish between an actual edge from an area of missing data (referred to as void).

4. If a valid edge region is detected, a model fit is applied to the surface and edge regions to accurately determine the region positions and feature point locations. The model fit takes into account the Surface Width, Surface Offset, Edge Angle and the Edge Type parameters.



Parameters

Parameter	Description	Illustration
Gap Width Max	The maximum width of the gap. Allows the tool to fitter gaps longer than the expected width. This could be used to single out the correct gap when there are multiple gaps in the field of view.	Fitted Conferent inc

Parameter Description Illustration Reference Side Defines the side on which the gap is calculated. Surface Axis Edge Axis Defines the direction that the gap is calculated. Measurement Axis Surface: In the direction of the fitted surface line of Gap tool only the reference surface. Edge: In the direction perpendicular to the edge of the reference surface. Distance: The Cartesian distance between the two Distance Axis feature locations.

Decision	See <i>Decisions</i> (page 30).
Region	See <i>Regions</i> (page 31).
Output	See Output Filters (page 31).

Left/Right Side Parameters

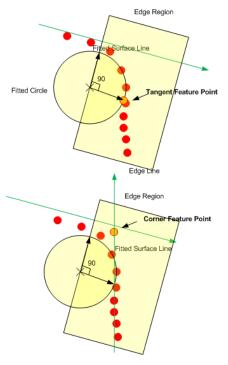
Parameter	Description	Illustration
Void Width	The maximum width of the missing data caused by occlusion or data dropout. A larger value prevents	Fitted Surface Line
Max	the algorithm from registering a section of missing data as an edge.	• • •
	Setting the value to 0 causes the algorithm to try to detect an edge in every missing data section.	
		Data Void Width

Parameter	Description	Illustration
Minimum Depth	Defines the minimum depth before an opening could be considered to have a potential edge. The depth is the perpendicular distance from the fitted surface line.	Fitted Surface Line Minimum Depth
Surface Width	The width of the surface area in which laser data is used to form the fitted surface line. This value should be as large as the surface allows.	Surface Width Surface Ragion Fitted Surface Line
Surface Offset	The distance between the edge region and the surface region. Setting a small value allows the edge within a tighter region to be detected. However, the measurement repeatability could be affected if the data from the edge are considered as part of the surface region (or vice versa). A rule of thumb is to set the Surface Offset equal to the Nominal Radius.	Surface Weah Edge Region Surface Region Fitted Surface Line
Nominal Radius	The radius of the curve edge that the algorithm uses to locate the edge region. The algorithm searches for a start position in which the remaining data most resemble a circle of the specified nominal radius.	Surface Motion Edge Region Surface Region Fitted Surface Line

Edge Angle A point on the best fit circle to be used to calculate the feature point. The selected point is on the circumference at the specified angle from the start of the edge region. The angle is measured from the axis perpendicular to the fitted surface line.	on
Radius	
	Edge Region Fitted Surface Line

Edge Type

Defines the type of feature point and it can be either a corner or a tangent. A tangent edge point is the point selected based on the defined Edge Angle. A corner edge point is the intersect point between the fitted surface line and a edge line formed by interpolating the points at and after the tangent within the edge region.



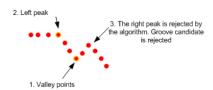
Groove Algorithm

The groove measurement tool first locates valley along the profile line. The bottom point of a valley, the valley point, is the first estimation of the position of the groove bottom. For each valley, the algorithm searches for corner to the left and to the right to find the groove corners. A groove candidate is found when the groove corners are located on the left and right before the next valley is reached. Two groove

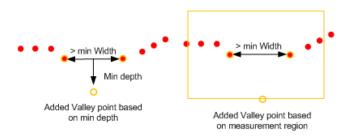
candidates may share the same corner as shown in the right image below. (See the tables below for the parameters used by the algorithm.)



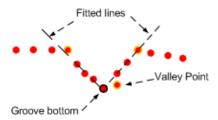
The algorithm derives search parameters from the user settings to prevent noise from triggering false detections. When detecting multiple grooves, an adaptive algorithm is used to ensure that candidate grooves are approximately the same scale.



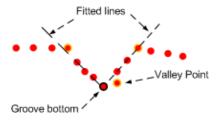
The valley points of open grooves may not be visible or may fall outside of the measurement region. Voids in the data (regions with no profile data) between pairs of valid points are detected. A valley point is added midway between the pair of valid points. The Z position of the valley point is either the minimum groove depth below the lower of the corners or the bottom edge of the measurement region. The algorithm then proceeds as if to find a U-shaped groove.



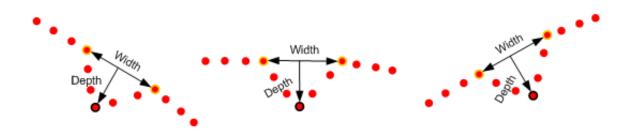
The actual groove bottom is calculated differently for different shapes. For a V-shaped groove, a line is fitted to the sides of the valley points starting from the corners, up to (but not including) the valley point. The groove bottom is the intersection of the left and right lines. Line fitting is used such that an accurate groove bottom can be found even when the real bottom is not visible (i.e., blocked by reflections).



For U-shaped and open groove, the distance from each point within the groove (including the added point for open-shaped groove) is projected onto the width line. The groove bottom's X is at the centroid of the projected values along the width. The groove bottom's Z is at the maximum depth of the groove.

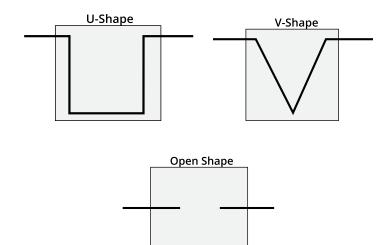


Groove candidates that do not meet the minimum and maximum width and depth settings are rejected. The width and depth measurements are invariant to the groove rotation. The width is the distance between the groove corners and the depth is perpendicular distance of the groove bottom from the groove width.



Parameters

Parameter	Description
Shape	Shape of the groove



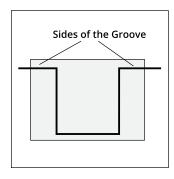
Location	Specifies the location type to return
(Groove X and Groove Z measurements only)	Bottom - Groove bottom. For a U-shape and open-shape groove, the X position is at the the centroid of the groove. For a V-shape groove, the X position is at the intersection of lines fitted to the left and right sides of the groove. See algorithm section below for more details.
	Left - Groove's left corner.
	Right - Groove's right corner.
Select Type	Specifies how a groove is selected when there are multiple grooves within the measurement area.
	Maximum Depth - Groove with maximum depth.
	Index from The Left - 0-based groove index, counting from left to right
	Index from the Right - 0-based groove index, counting from right to left.
Index	0-based groove index.
Minimum Depth	Minimum depth for a groove to be considered valid.
Minimum Width	Minimum width for a groove to be considered valid. The width is the distance between the groove corners.
Maximum Width	Maximum width of a groove to be considered valid. If set to 0, the maximum is set to the width of the measurement area.
Decision	See <i>Decisions</i> (page 30).

Parameter

Description

Region

The measurement region defines the region in which to search for the groove. For a stable measurement, the measurement region should be made large enough to cover some laser data on the left and right sides of the groove. See *Regions* (page 31).

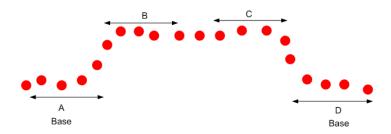


Output

See Output Filters (page 31).

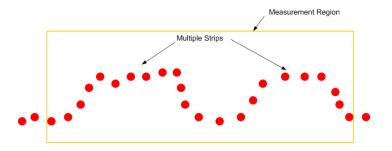
Strip Algorithm

A strip is a flat region bounded on the left and on the right by edges. The Strip tool can measure the edge positions, width and height of a strip. The Strip tool assumes that regions outside the strip, referred to as the base regions (Region A and D below), deviate in height from the start and end parts of a strip (Region B and C). (See the tables below for the parameters used by the algorithm.)



When the target is sitting on the surface, the base is lower than the strip (as shown above). Alternatively for a groove the base is above the strip surface. The base could be missing when the target is hanging in the air or the surface holding the target falls outside the sensor's active area. You can control the base type in the measurement panel.

The Strip tool can detect multiple strips. You can select an ROI, referred to as the measurement region, from which the algorithm search for multiple strips.

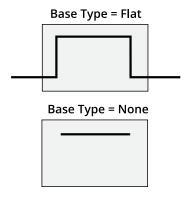


Parameters

Parameter Description

Base Type

Specifies if the strip has a base or not.

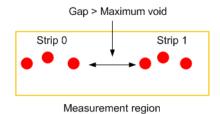


Location	Specifies the strip position from which the measurements are performed.
(Strip Height, Strip X, and Strip Z measurements only)	Left - Left edge of the strip.
	Right - Right edge of the strip.
	Center - Center of the strip.
Left Edge	Specifies the features that will be considered as the strip's left edge. You can select more than one condition.
	Rising - Rising edge detected based on the strip edge parameters.
	Falling - Falling edge detected based on the strip edge parameters.
	Data end - First valid profile data point in the measurement region.
	Void - Gap in the data that is larger than the maximum void threshold. Gaps connected to the measurement region's boundary are not considered as a void.
	See "Strip Start and Terminate Conditions" in the <i>Algorithm Technical User Manual</i> for the definitions of these conditions.

Parameter	Description
Right Edge	Specifies the features that will be considered as the strip's right edge. You can select more than one condition.
	Rising - Rising edge detected based on the strip edge parameters.
	Falling - Falling edge detected based on the strip edge parameters.
	Data end - Last valid profile data point in the measurement region.
	Void - Gap in the data that is larger than the maximum Void parameter. Gaps connected to the measurement region's boundary are not considered as a void.
	See "Strip Start and Terminate Conditions" in the <i>Algorithm Technical User Manual</i> for the definitions of these conditions.
Select Type	Specifies how a strip is selected when there are multiple strips within the measurement area.
	Best - The widest strip.
	Index from The Left - 0-based strip index, counting from left to right
	Index from the Right - 0-based strip index, counting from right to left
Index	0-based strip index.
Minimum Edge Height	Specifies the minimum deviation from the strip base. See "Strip Step Edge Definitions" in the <i>Algorithm Technical User Manual</i> on how this parameter is used for different base types.
Edge Support Width	Specifies the width of the region around the edges from which the data is used to calculate the step change. See "Strip Step Edge Definitions" in the <i>Algorithm Technical User Manual</i> on how this parameter is used by different base types.
Edge Transition Width	Specifies the nominal width needed to make the transition from the base to the strip. See "Strip Step Edge Definitions" in the <i>Algorithm Technical User Manual</i> on how this parameter is used by different base types.
Maximum Void	The maximum width of missing data allowed for the data to be considered as part of a strip when 'Void" is selected in the Left or Right Edge parameter. This value must be smaller than the Edge Support Width.

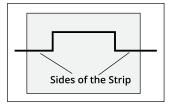
Parameter

Description



When occlusion and exposure causes data drops, users should use the gap filling function to fill the gaps.

Minimum Strip Width	Specifies the minimum width for a strip to be considered valid.
Tilt	Enables/disables tile correction.
Decision	See <i>Decisions</i> (page 30).
Region	The measurement region defines the region in which to search for the strip. If possible, the region should be made large enough to cover the base on the left and right sides of the strip.



See *Regions* (page 31) for more information.

Output

See Output Filters (page 31).

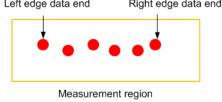
Strip Start and Terminate Conditions

The Strip tool allows you to define how a strip starts and ends. The Left Edge parameter controls how a strip starts and the Right Edge parameter controls how a strip ends.

Start / terminate conditions

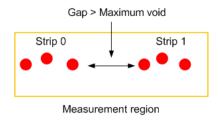
Condition	Description
Rising	Rising step edge detected based on the strip edge parameters. See <i>Strip Step Edge Definitions</i> (page 21) for details on how the step edge is detected.
Falling	Falling step edge detected based on the strip edge parameters. See Strip Step Edge

Condition	Description			
	Definitions (page 21) for details on how the step edge is measured.			
Data end	The first (for the left edge) or the last (for the right edge) valid profile data point in the measurement region.			
	Left edge data end Right edge data end			
	Left edge data end Right edge data end			

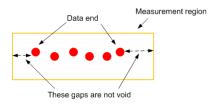


Void

Gaps in the data that are larger than the maximum void threshold.



Gaps at the ends of the measurement region's boundary are not considered as a void.



The following examples show how the parameters affect the strip detection in different scenarios.

Left and Right Edge conditions

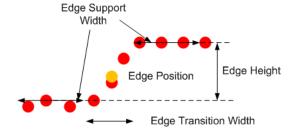
Example			
Right: Falling, data end, void		Strip 1	Strip 2
	_	_	
	Example 	Example Strip 0	



Strip Step Edge Definitions

The Strip tool detects step edges based on the parameters Base Type, Edge Transition Width, Edge Support Width, and Minimum Edge Height.

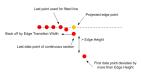
When Base Type is set to Flat, the regions around the edges are visible and the edge positions are between the base and the strip surface.



The Minimum Edge Height parameter defines the size of the step edge. The Edge Transition Width parameter specifies the nominal width of the transition, from the base to the strip surface.

The Edge Support Width parameter defines the width of the region around the edges from which the data is used to measure the step change. This region should be relatively smooth and flat. To improve noise immunity, the height level of the Edge Support Width parameter is calculated by averaging the data within the region.

When the base is set to None, the tool looks for continuous sections that are wider than the Edge Support Width parameter and have no data points that deviate positively or negatively more than the value of the Minimum Edge Height parameter. The height level of the continuous region is calculated based on the fitted line as shown below.



The algorithm then backs off by the value of the Edge Transition Width parameter and uses the data up to the back-off point to create the fitted line and projects the edge point on the line. This step prevents the points near the end of a rounded strip from affecting the height of the strip.

Part Tools

Hole Algorithm

The Hole tool processes the data in three phases: Search, Measure, and Filter. The algorithm can separate out background information that appears inside the hole. It can also detect holes that only partially appear in the data.

See the tables below for the parameters used by the algorithm.

Search phase - The tool searches for coarse data transitions (edge data) and performs a coarse fitting of the hole model (specified by the orientation angles and the nominal value) to determine the most likely candidate. If **Tilt Correction** is set to **Autoset**, the algorithm uses the data within the measurement region to estimate the orientation of the part.

Measure phase - A more rigorous edge detection algorithm is applied to precisely determine the edges around the feature. Edge detection at this stage will reject outliers and noise. The algorithm requires at least 25% of the data around the hole for the candidate to remain valid.

The accuracy of the algorithm improves when the points are spread more evenly along the hole's circumference.

The set of refined edges is then used to locate and inspect the feature. If the Reference Regions option is enabled and set to AutoSet, the edges are also used to calculate the location of the reference regions.

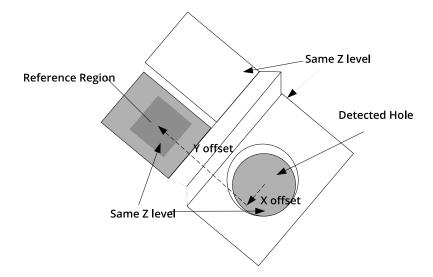
At least 25% of the points around the circle should be present

Filter phase - The detected location and dimensions are then compared to the nominal and tolerance settings. If the refined feature falls within the measurement region and its measurements fit within the specified tolerance, the results are reported. If not, an invalid result is returned.

Parameters

- drametere			
Parameter	Description		
Nominal Radius	Expected radius of the hole.		
Radius Tolerance	The maximum variation from the nominal radius (+/- from the nominal radius).		
Reference Regions	The algorithm uses the Reference Regions option to calculate the Z position of the hole. It is typically used in cases where the surface around the hole is not flat.		

Parameter	Description



When this option is set to Autoset, the algorithm automatically determines the reference region. When the option is not set to Autoset, the user manually specifies the reference region. The location of the reference region is relative to the detected center of the hole and positioned on the nominal surface plane.

When the Reference Regions option is disabled, the tool measures the hole's Z position using all the data in the measurement region, except for a bounding rectangular region around the hole.

Tilt Correction

Tilt of the target with respect to the alignment plane.

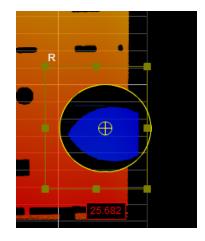
When this option is set to Autoset, the tool automatically detects the tilt. Otherwise, the user must enter the angles manually. Autoset requires the measurement region to cover more areas on the surface plane than other planes.

The results from the Plane X and Y tool can be used for angles X and Y parameters.

Partial Detection

Enable if only part of the hole is within the measurement region. If disabled, the hole must be completely in the region of interest for results to be valid.





Decision	See <i>Decisions</i> (page 30).
Region	See <i>Regions</i> (page 31).
Output	See Output Filters (page 31).

Opening Algorithm

The Opening tool processes the data in three phases: Search, Measure, and Filter.

See the tables below for the parameters used by the algorithm.

Search phase - The tool searches for coarse data transitions (edge data) and performs a coarse fitting of the opening shape (specified by the orientation angles and the nominal dimensions) to determine the most likely candidate. If **Tilt Correction** is enabled, the algorithm uses the flat surface in the measurement region to estimate the orientation of the part.

Measure phase - A more rigorous edge detection algorithm is applied to precisely determine the edges around the feature. Edge detection at this stage will reject outliers and noise. The algorithm requires opposite sides and ends to be associated with a comparable number of edge pixels, with the weaker side or end having at least 25% of the stronger.

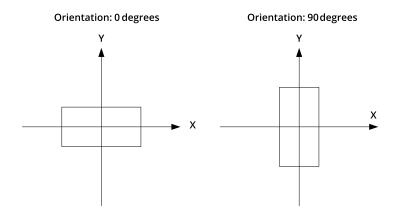
The set of refined edges is then used to locate and inspect the feature. If the **Reference Regions** setting is enabled, the edges are also used to calculate the location of the reference regions.



Filter phase - The detected location and dimensions are compared to the nominal and tolerance settings. If the refined feature falls within the measurement region and its measurements fit within the specified tolerance, the results are reported. If not, an invalid result is returned.

Parameters

Parameter	Description
Туре	Rounded Slot, Rectangle.
Nominal Width	Nominal width of the opening.
Nominal length	Nominal length of the opening.
Nominal Angle	Nominal angle of the opening. The default orientation is the length of the opening along the X axis.



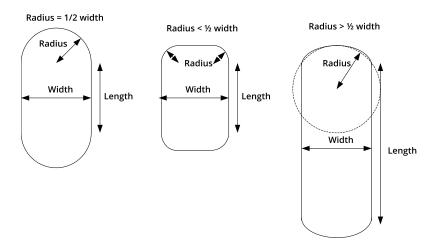
The diagram above illustrates the case where the surface is not tilted. When the surface is tilted, the orientation is defined with respect to the normal of the surface, not with respect to the X-Y plane

Nominal Radius

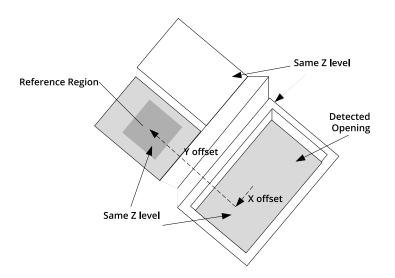
Nominal radius of the opening ends. If the opening type is set to rectangular, the radius setting is disabled. The opening has an oval shape if the radius is equal to % of the width. The opening is a rounded rectangle when the radius is less than % of the width.

Parameter

Description



Width Tolerance	The maximum variation from the nominal width (+/- from the nominal value).
Length Tolerance	The maximum variation from the nominal length (+/- from the nominal value).
Orientation Tolerance	The maximum variation from the nominal orientation (+/- from the nominal value).
Reference Regions	The algorithm uses reference regions to calculate the Z position of the hole. Reference regions are relative to the center location of the feature. This option is typically used in cases where the surface around the opening is not flat.



When the Reference Regions setting is disabled, the tool measures the hole's Z position using the all data in the measurement region, except for a bounding rectangular region around the opening.

Parameter	Description
	Data used to calculate Z position (orange) Opening Data NOT used for Z calculation (blue or black regions)
	With one or more reference region, the algorithm calculates the Z positions as the average values of the data within the regions.
	When the user places the reference region manually, all of the data is used, whether the data is inside or outside the opening. The user should place the reference region carefully.
Tilt Correction	Tilt of the target with respect to the alignment plane. Set to Auto-Set to have the tool automatically detect the target's tilt, or enter the angles manually. Auto-Set requires the measurement region to cover more areas on the surface plane than other planes.
	The results from the Plane X and Y tool can be used for angles X and Y parameters.

Stud Algorithm

Region

Output

The Stud algorithm measures the stud in three steps: searching for the tip, finding the reference plane, and shaft fitting.

See the tables below for the parameters used by the algorithm.

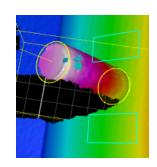
See Regions (page 31).

See Output Filters (page 31).

Searching for the tip - The algorithm looks for the approximate location of the tip. If Auto-Tilt is enabled, the algorithm uses the flat surface around the tip to estimate the orientations of the part. The approximate tip is the location of the highest (maximum Z) pixel after correction for the nominal tilt angle.

Finding the reference plane - The reference regions are positioned using the approximate tip, the nominal angle values, and the nominal stud length. Compared to the hole/opening, misplaced stud reference regions are more likely to cause a failure to produce any measurement.

Shaft fitting - The shaft region is determined based on the approximate tip position, the nominal angles, the reference plane position, and the stud nominal size parameters. Shaft fitting is successful if the algorithm can fit at least three circles with the stud diameter along the shaft. Fitting each circle requires sufficient data along the top portion the shaft. Because of occlusions, the bottom of the shaft is often not visible to the sensor and the algorithm is designed to handle this situation.



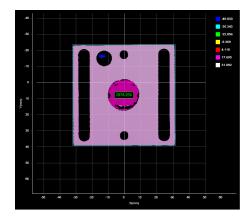
Parameters

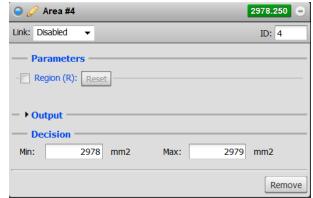
Parameter	Description
Nominal Stud Radius	Expected radius of the stud.
Nominal Stud Length	Expected length of the stud.
Base Height	The height above the base surface that will be ignored when the (truncated) cone is fit to the stud data.
Tip Height	The height from the top of the surface that will be ignored when the (truncated) cone is fit to the stud data.
Radius Offset	The distance from the tip of the stud from which the radius is measured.
Reference Regions	The algorithm uses reference regions to calculate the base plane of the stud. Reference regions are relative to the base of the stud.
Tilt Correction	Tilt of the target with respect to the alignment plane. Set to Auto-Set to have the tool automatically detect the tilt, or enter the angles manually. Auto-Set requires the measurement region to cover more areas on the surface plane than other planes. The results from the Plane X and Y tool can be used for angles X and Y parameters.
Decision	See <i>Decisions</i> (page 30).
Region	See <i>Regions</i> (page 31).
Output	See Output Filters (page 31).

Common Parameters

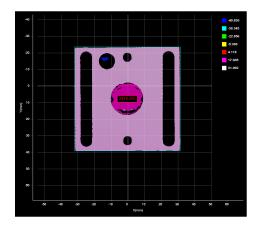
Decisions

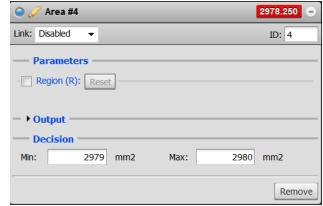
Results from a measurement tool can be compared against minimum and maximum thresholds to generate pass / fail decisions. The decision state is pass if a measurement value is between the minimum and maximum threshold; in the user interface, these values are displayed in green. Otherwise, the decision state is fail; in the user interface, these values are displayed in red.





Value (50.380) is within the decision thresholds (Min: 80, Max:100). Decision: Pass





Value (102.928) is outside the decision thresholds (Min: 80, Max: 100). Decision: Fail

Along with measurement values, decisions can be sent to external programs and devices. In particular, decisions are often used with digital outputs to trigger an external event in response to a measurement.

Output Filters

Output filters can be applied to measurement values before they are output from the Gocator sensors.

Operation	Description
Scale and Offset	The Scale and Offset settings are applied to the measurement value according to the following formula:
	Scale * Value + Offset
	Scale and Offset can be used to transform the output without the need to write a script. For example, to convert the measurement value from millimeters to thousands of an inch, set Scale to 39.37.
Hold Last Valid	Hold the last valid value when the measurement is invalid. Measurement is invalid if there is no valid value.
Smoothing	Apply moving window averaging to reduce random noise in a measurement output. The averaging window is configured in number of frames.
	If Hold Last Valid is enabled, smoothing uses the output of the Hold Last Valid filter.



To configure the output filters:

1. Select a measurement.

Click on the + in a measurement panel to expand it. Click the arrow next to **Output** to expand the panel.

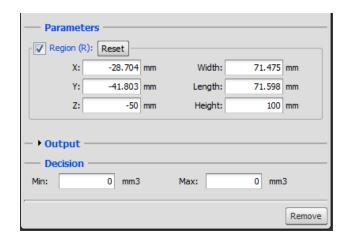
2. Enable filters and configure the settings.

Regions

The Region parameter is used to limit the region in which a measurement will occur. See the individual tools for details on the best way to use this parameter with each tool.

The parameter can be configured graphically using the mouse in the data viewer when the **Measurement** page is active.

Some measurements use more than one region.



This parameter is also referred to as a measurement region.

To configure regions:

1. Select a measurement.

Click on the + in a measurement panel to expand it.

- 2. Check the Region checkbox to enable a region.
- 3. Configure the region using the fields.

You can also configure the region graphically using the mouse in the data viewer.