Scope
This document explains what fixed pattern noise (FPN) is and how the fixed pattern noise correction (FPNC) is calibrated on Alvium cameras.

What is fixed pattern noise?
Some pixels on a sensor produce brighter intensities than the neighboring pixels. This spatial non-uniformity is called fixed pattern noise. It becomes visible on images acquired in the dark. Inaccuracies in the pixel geometry and the sensor electronics create this effect.

FPN is a high-frequency signal overlaying the image signal. It increases with temperature and exposure time. Though non-uniformities can occur on any individual pixel, issues apply typically to columns, due to readout and amplification. Different sensors have individual characteristics. FPN divides into:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illumination</th>
<th>Defect</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dark image</td>
<td>Dark signal non-uniformity (DSNU)</td>
<td>Spatial variation of the dark signal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bright image</td>
<td>Photo response non-uniformity (PRNU)</td>
<td>Spatial variation of the sensitivity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example images
The following images show an ideal image (1), column noise and row noise (2), and pixel noise (3):

Figure 1: Ideal image and images with noise
How are Alvium cameras calibrated for FPNC?

The FPNC on Alvium cameras strives to correct FPN without damaging image details. All Alvium cameras are factory calibrated using the following workflow. Depending on the dominant FPN of the sensor, either row or column noise is being corrected. The following example relates to columns.

For all calibration steps, numerous images are averaged to compensate for temporal noise. In reality all columns of a sensor are corrected, the example shows the photo response of two averaged columns:

1. Dark image: DSNU parameters are calculated.

2. Bright image: PRNU parameters are calculated.
3. The corrections align different black levels and slopes.

Figure 2: Image before correction with two columns. Black level and slope differ.

Figure 3: DSNU corrected image. Black level has been aligned, slope differs.

Figure 4: PRNU corrected image. The columns show equal photo response.
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General
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Support
support@alliedvision.com

Sales Offices
Europe, Middle East, and Africa T// +49 36428 677-230
North and South America Toll-free: +1 877 USA 1394
T// +1 978 225 2030
California: +1 408 721 1965
Asia-Pacific T// +65 6634 9027
China T// +86 21 64861133

Headquarters
Allied Vision Technologies GmbH
Taschenweg 2a
07646 Stadtroda, Germany
T// +49 36428 677-0
F// +49 36428 677-28

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