

CS-475 Assignment 0

Introduction to ROS

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1 Introduction

This assignment is a tutorial on how to setup and use the Robot Operating System *ROS*. You will install ROS Melodic and then you will add the turtlebot3 robot to the built-in simulated environment, *Gazebo*. The goal is for you to get familiar with the core concepts and tools of ROS.

2 Installation

In order for ROS Melodic to work, it needs to be installed on top of Ubuntu 18.04. So you need to install Ubuntu 18.04 first. Choose one of the following options :

1. (Recommended) Install Ubuntu 18.04 as your main operating system. Follow the instructions: <https://phoenixnap.com/kb/how-to-install-ubuntu-18-04> When the installation prompt pops up choose *Normal installation* and also check the *Other Options*
2. (OK) Use a virtual box for installing Ubuntu 18.04. Download the Desktop image from <https://releases.ubuntu.com/18.04/> and then follow the this tutorial: https://linuxhint.com/install_ubuntu_18-04_virtualbox/. When the installation prompt pops up choose *Normal installation* and also check the *Other Options*. After you've installed Ubuntu you 'll need to make it full-screen, just go to *Devices* (top left) and click *Insert Guest Additions CD image*, restart and click *View*→ full-screen.

3. (Not recommended) You can skip the installation of Ubuntu and work with ROS online. Use *the contrast*, online ROS platform
The online ROS platform is <https://www.theconstructsim.com/> where you are required to create a free account.

Now that you have installed Ubuntu 18.04. Follow the ROS instructions on installing ROS melodic, <http://wiki.ros.org/melodic/Installation/Ubuntu> (Install the Desktop-full version).

After the installation, I highly suggest to practice on the beginner tutorials from: <http://wiki.ros.org/ROS/Tutorials> especially the "Writing a Simple Publisher and Subscriber (Python)"

3 Setup turtlebot3

Assuming that you've installed ROS and followed some of the tutorials, now you should be a bit familiar with the file structure and some of the key concepts of ROS (nodes, topics, msg, etc.)

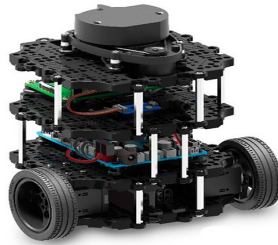


Figure 1: turtlebot 3

Follow the instructions below in order to create a fresh workspace and install the turtlebot there.

Use a terminal to navigate to your home directory and then:

```
$ mkdir -p assign0_ws/src  
$ cd assign0_ws/src
```

If you don't have *git* installed already you can use:

```
$ sudo apt install git
```

Clone the turtlebot repositories to your workspace:

```
$ git clone https://github.com/ROBOTIS-GIT/turtlebot3_simulations.git
```

```
$ git clone https://github.com/ROBOTIS-GIT/turtlebot3.git
```

```
$ sudo apt-get install ros-melodic-turtlebot3-msgs
```

Compile the project:

```
$ cd ..
```

```
$ catkin_make
```

In order for your system to see the new ROS workspace, you need to source the devel/setup.bash file every time you open a new terminal window by using:

```
$ source /home/<usr_name>/assign0_ws/devel/setup.bash
```

I suggest to just add this line at the bottom of your .bashrc and never have to deal with it again.

The .bashrc file is located at your home directory, try modifying it as a superuser. Navigate to your home directory (/home/<yourname>/) and :

```
$ sudo gedit .bashrc
```

Finally append the following lines:

```
source /home/<usr_name>/assign0_ws/devel/setup.bash
```

```
export TURTLEBOT3_MODEL=burger
```

The latter, is just needed in order to specify the robot we are going to use. Save and exit!

Open a new terminal window and run `$ rospack profile`, this practically updates the packages for ROS. Now that everything is in place, you can spawn the robot inside the simulation environment by using:

```
$ roslaunch turtlebot3_gazebo turtlebot3_empty_world.launch
```

You should be able to see the turtlebot located at the origin (0,0,0) inside an empty world. In general you can use the `roslaunch` command to run any .launch files. The general use is:

```
$ roslaunch <package_name> <name_of_launchfile>
```

When you type `$roslaunch <package_name>$` if you press the TAB button

twice, it displays all the launch files contained in the package. In general the names are pretty descriptive on what each file actually does when you launch it so you can decide on the spot what would you like to run. I suggest to navigate and test different environments (e.g. `turtlebot3_house.launch`). Note that the more complicated the environment is, the more time you have to wait in order to load it.

4 Create a package

Finally, the only thing that remains, is for you to create a package and then a node that subscribes and publishes to a topic.

Use this to create a package after you've navigated to the `src/` folder of your workspace:

```
$ catkin_create_pkg <REGISTRATION_NUMBER> rospy nav_msgs std_msgs
```

The `rospy`, `nav_msgs`, `std_msgs` arguments are the dependencies of your package. Navigate to your new package/`src/` and there create a `<name>.py` file, where `<name>` is your registration number, this will be the name of your node. In order for a python script to get installed properly and use the right python interpreter, you need to add to the end of the `CMakeLists.txt` the following lines:

```
catkin_install_python(PROGRAMS src/<name>.py
                      DESTINATION ${CATKIN_PACKAGE_BIN_DESTINATION}
)
```

Replace the `<name>` with whatever you've chosen as your node name. This makes sure that python scripts get installed properly, and use the right python interpreter.

5 Compute Distance

After you have created a ROS node under `src/<name>.py`. The purpose of your node is to extract the necessary information from the `/odom` topic and calculate the 2D distance between the robot and the world frame (0,0,0). Then, you will need to publish the calculated distance to another topic with a name of your choice.

To run your node you will need to use the `roslaunch` command:

```
$ roslaunch <name_of_your_package> <name_of_your_node>
```

Move the robot around by using the teleop launch file and then subscribe to your created topic and see if you get the expected results. You can move the

robot by running:

```
$ roslaunch turtlebot3_teleop turtlebot3_teleop_key.launch
```

(Follow the prompt instruction on how to move it)

6 Tips

1. Use: `rostopic type <topic_name>` to find out what type of message a topic uses
2. Run `$ rosmmsg show <general_class/specific_type>` to easily see the data structure of the message.(e.g. `rosmmsg show std_msgs/Float32`)
3. To get only one message from a topic you can use the `rospy.wait_for_message('topic_name',msg_type,timeout=None)`

7 Submission

Sent your node (<name>.py) attached via email at: **maravgakis@csd.uoc.gr**
Don't forget to mention your name and registration number. The deadline is at **Friday 03/03/2023 23:59**