

Source Code: <https://github.com/AmanVirmani/mapBot>

Problem Statement : Program a simple robot vehicle in a simulated environment (robot simulation tools and libraries may be used). Your simulated robot should exhibit at least one sensor input (e.g., forward-looking range sensor that returns the distance to the nearest obstacle) and two control outputs (e.g., left and right wheels, or speed and direction of vehicle motion). Show that you can drive your robot around through mouse or keyboard inputs.

Procedure:

Step 1: Create the URDF file. The robot that I have created uses a robot.xacro file. It also includes two other xacro files: materials.xacro and macros.xacro.

Robot.xacro : Main URDF file to describe the robot structure.

Materials.xacro : Xacro file to describe the material properties used to create the robot.

Macros.xacro : Xacro file to define the macros which are called from robot.xacro file.

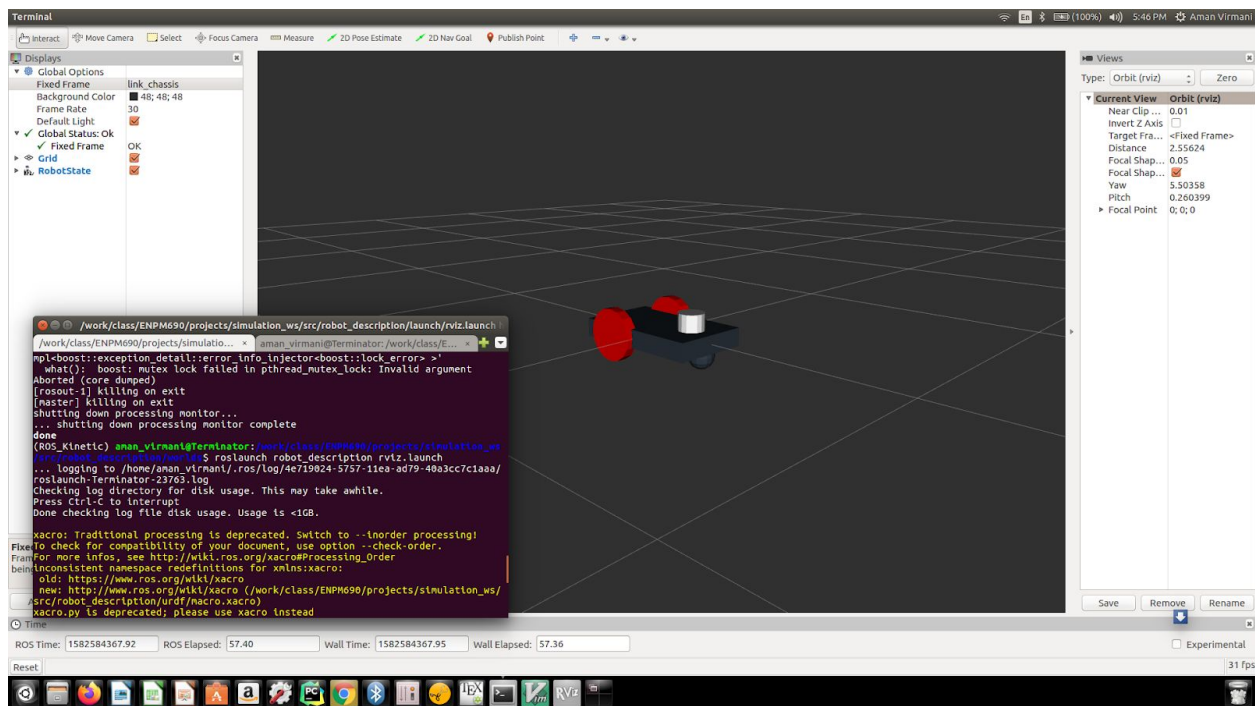


Fig. 1 : Robot Model Visualize in Rviz

Step 2: Create launch files to visualise the robot in rviz and gazebo.

Step 3 : Add a differential drive component to the robot to operate it using teleop. I have used the **gazebo plugin : libgazebo_ros_diff_drive.so** for the same. Velocity commands can then be published to the topic `cmd_vel` to control the robot

Problem Statement: Add a programmed behavior to your robot, such as following (or avoiding) a light, or wandering, while avoiding collisions with obstacles.

Step 6 : Write a python script to read laser scan data from the topic : `/mapBot/laser/scan` in the gazebo world and publish commands to `cmd_vel` topic to steer clear of potential obstacles. Logic here is simple to go straight and change path only when object is within a specific proximity threshold to avoid collision with the objects.

Step 7 : Create a gazebo world to test the next application of the robot, which is to map the environment using laser scan data while avoiding obstacles simultaneously.

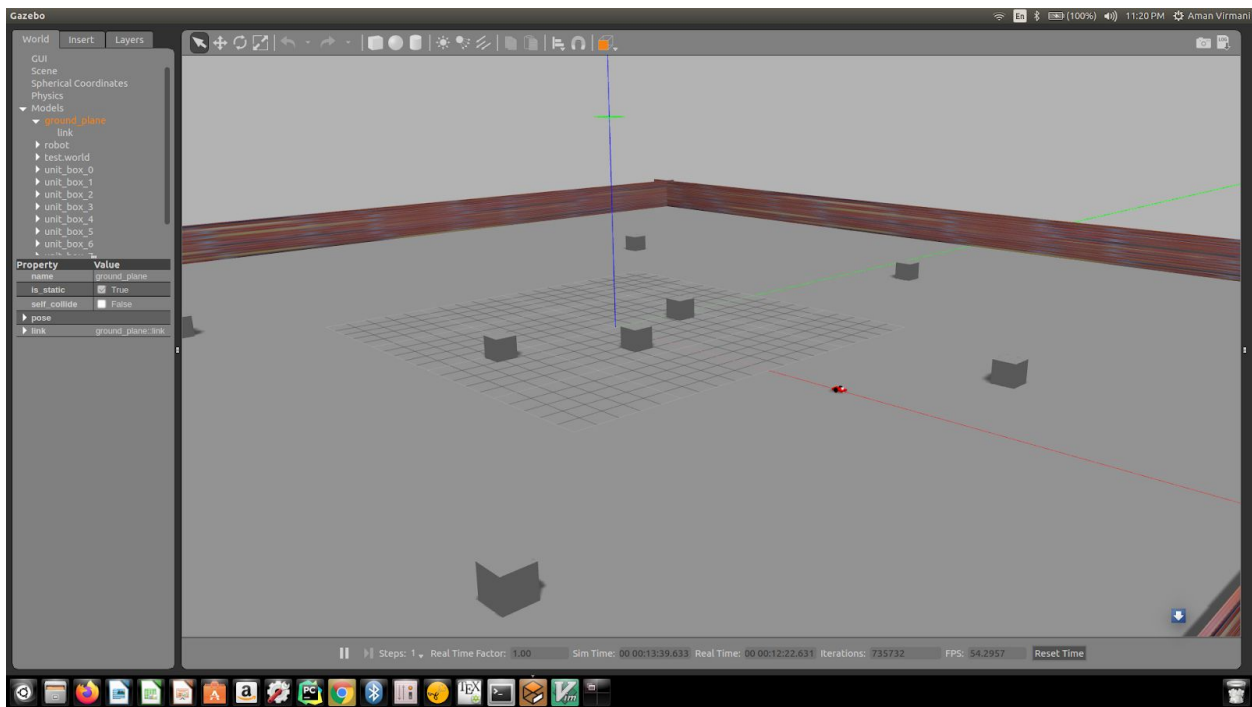


Fig. 3 : Robot Moving straight till it detects obstacles to steer away from

Step 8 : Use the script in Step 6 to explore the environment created in Step 7, only this time we have added a behaviour to detect and follow the wall. The robot will move in an anticlockwise direction while moving forward till it detects a wall. Once the robot is positioned such that its front and front-left path is clear while its front-right is obstructed the robot goes into the following wall state. In this state this function is executed and this function makes the robot follow a straight line.

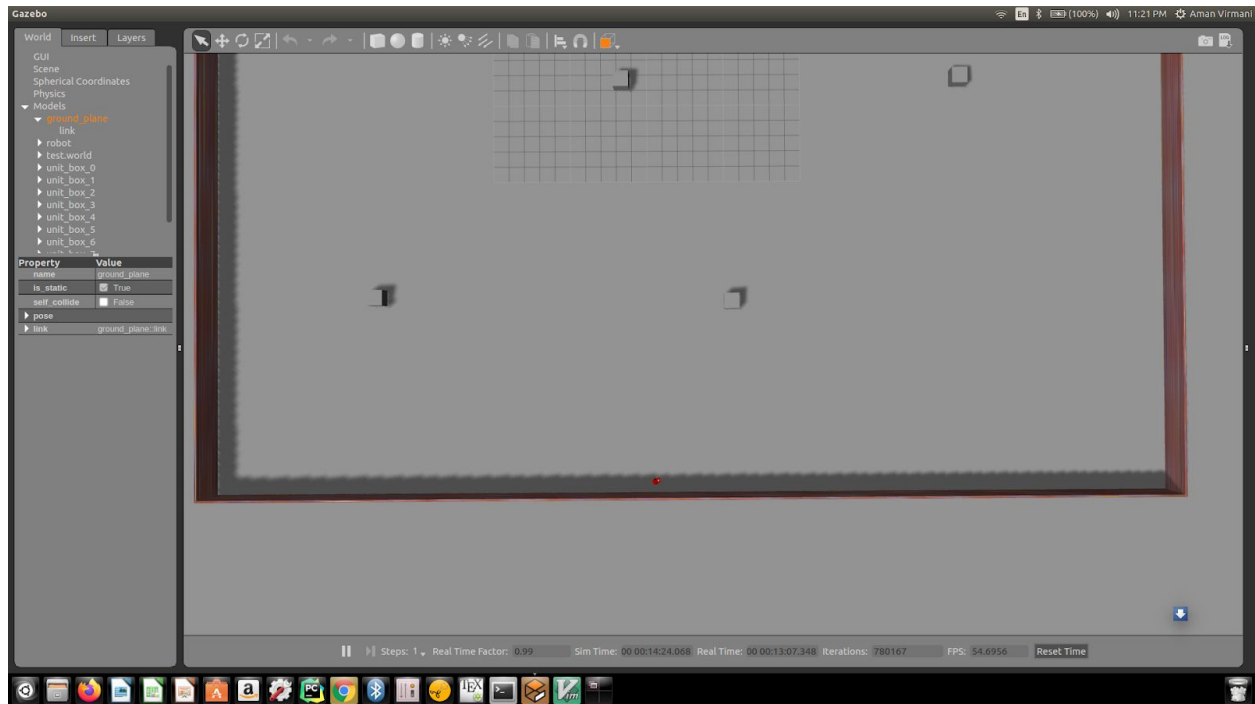


Fig. 4 : Robot Model(in red color) following the wall closely