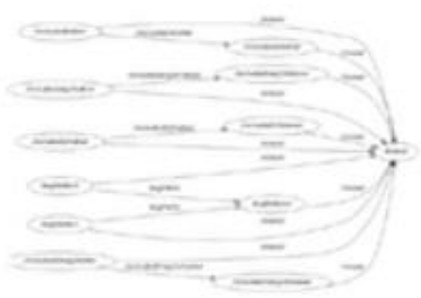
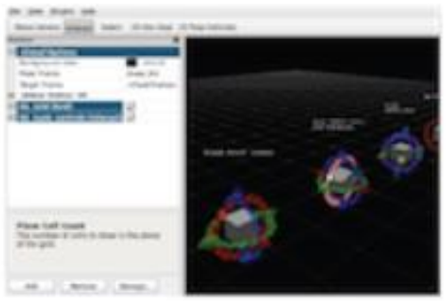
Introduction to ROS

Slides modified from Programming for Robotics – ROS Course of ETHZ

http://www.rsl.ethz.ch/education-students/lectures/ros.html

What is ROS

ROS = Robot Operating System

ros.org

Plumbing

- Process management
- Inter-process communication
- Device drivers

Tools

- Simulation
- Visualization
- Graphical user interface
- Data logging

Capabilities

- Control
- Planning
- Perception
- Mapping
- Manipulation

Ecosystem

- Package organization
- Software distribution
- Documentation
- Tutorials

Master Node

- Manages the communication between nodes
- Every node registers at startup with the master

Start a master with

```
> roscore
```

Nodes

- Single-purpose, executable program
- Individually compiled, executed, and managed
- Organized in *packages*

Run a node with

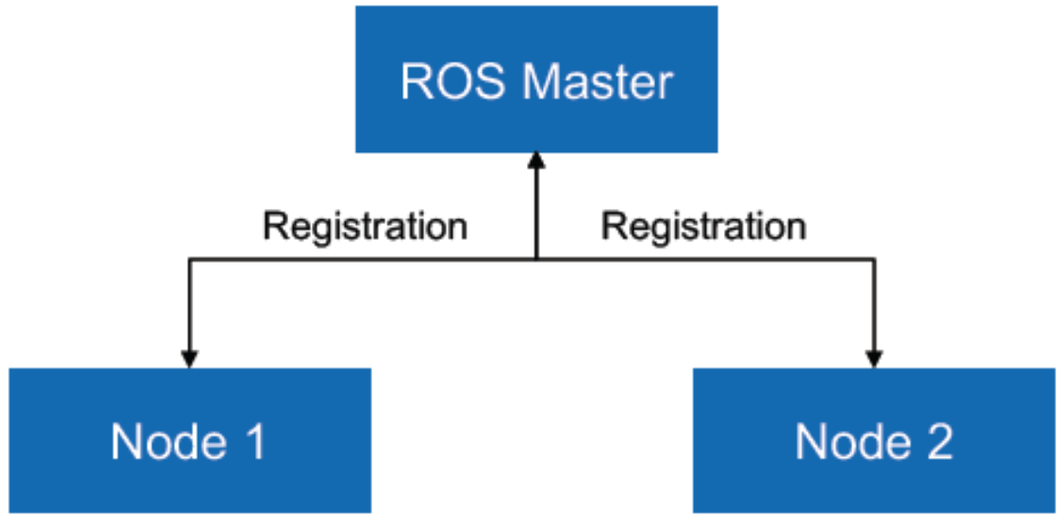
```
> rosrun package_name node_name
```

See active nodes with

```
> rosnode list
```

Retrieve information about a node with

```
> rosnode info node_name
```



More info
http://wiki.ros.org/rosnode

Topics

- Nodes communicate over *topics*
  - Nodes can *publish* or *subscribe* to a topic
  - Typically, 1 publisher and *n* subscribers
- Topic is a name for a stream of *messages*

List active topics with

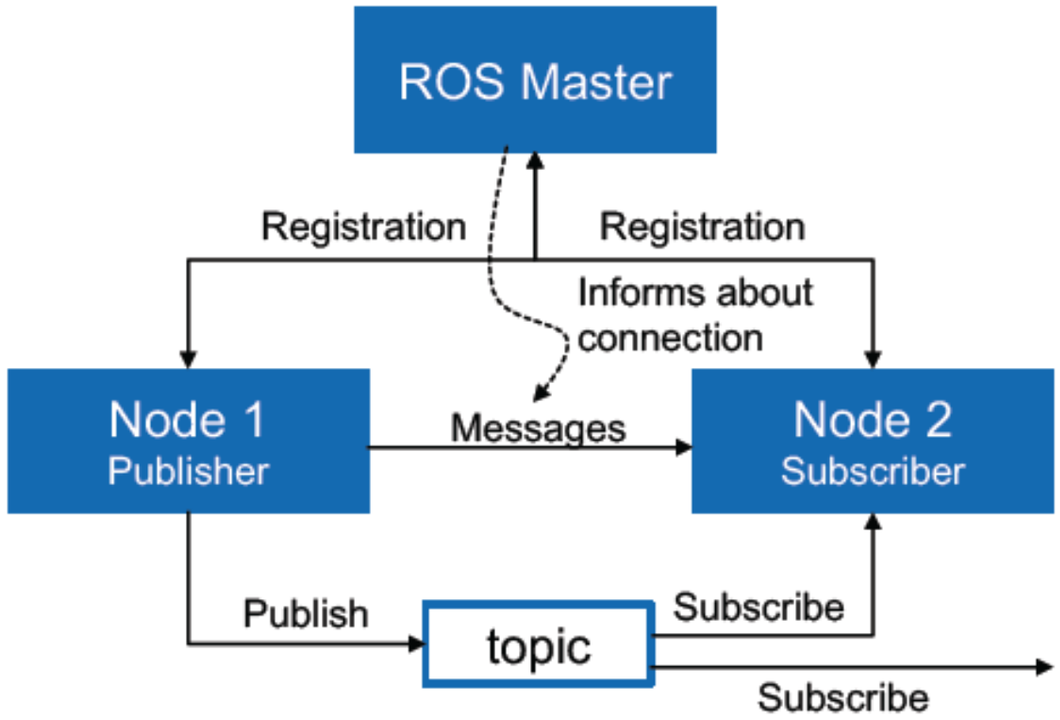
```
> rostopic list
```

Subscribe and print the contents of a topic with

```
> rostopic echo /topic
```

Show information about a topic with

```
> rostopic info /topic
```



More info
http://wiki.ros.org/rostopic

Messages

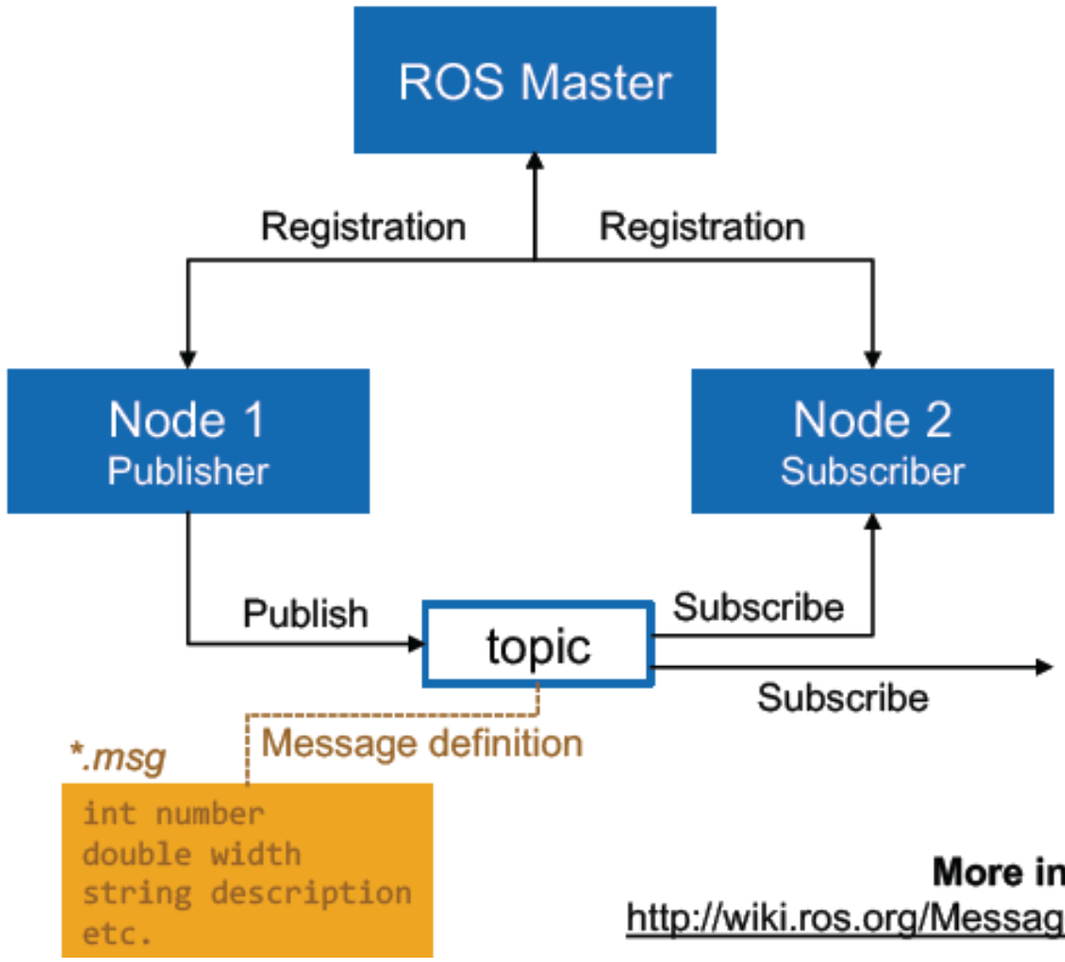
- Data structure defining the *type* of a topic
- Compromised of a nested structure of integers, floats, booleans, strings etc. and arrays of objects
- Defined in **.msg* files

See the type of a topic

```
> rostopic type /topic
```

Publish a message to a topic

```
> rostopic pub /topic type args
```



More info
http://wiki.ros.org/Messages

Catkin Build System – File Structure

The catkin workspace contains the following spaces

Work here

src

The *source space* contains the source code. This is where you can clone, create, and edit source code for the packages you want to build.

Don't touch

build

The *build space* is where CMake is invoked to build the packages in the source space. Cache information and other intermediate files are kept here.

Don't touch

devel

The *development (devel) space* is where built targets are placed (prior to being installed).

ROS Launch

- *launch* is a tool for launching multiple nodes (as well as setting parameters)
- Are written in XML as **.launch* files
- If not yet running, launch automatically starts a roscore

Browse to the folder and start a launch file with

```
> roslaunch file_name.launch
```

Start a launch file from a package with

```
> roslaunch package_name file_name.launch
```

More info
http://wiki.ros.org/roslaunch

ROS Launch – File Structure (Necessary?)

talker_listener.launch

```
<launch>
    <node name="listener" pkg="roscpp_tutorials" type="listener" output="screen"/>
    <node name="talker" pkg="roscpp_tutorials" type="talker" output="screen"/>
</launch>
```

! Notice the syntax difference for self-closing tags: `<tag></tag>` and `<tag/>`

- **launch**: Root element of the launch file
- **node**: Each *<node>* tag specifies a node to be launched
- **name**: Name of the node (free to choose)
- **pkg**: Package containing the node
- **type**: Type of the node, there must be a corresponding executable with the same name
- **output**: Specifies where to output log messages (`screen`: console, `log`: log file)

Packages

- ROS software is organized into *packages*, which can contain source code, launch files, configuration files, message definitions, data, and documentation
- A package that builds up on/requires other packages (e.g. message definitions), declares these as *dependencies*

To create a new package, use

```
> catkin_create_pkg package_name
    {dependencies}
```

package_name

- **config**
  Parameter files (YAML)
- **include/*package_name***
  C++ include headers
- **launch**
  *.launch files
- **src**
  Source files
- **test**
  Unit/ROS tests
- **CMakeLists.txt**
  CMake build file
- **package.xml**
  Package information

package_name_msgs

- **action**
  Action definitions
- **msg**
  Message definitions
- **srv**
  Service definitions
- **CMakeLists.txt**
  Cmake build file
- **package.xml**
  Package information

More info
http://wiki.ros.org/Packages