CSCI 545 Lab 1 - Report

Jailbreakers

ROS Exercises

Question 6 - Turtlesim Data Flow

The /teleop_turtle node publishes velocity commands on the /turtle1/cmd_vel topic, which the /turtlesim_node subscribes to. This shows the flow of data: key inputs are converted to velocity messages by the teleop node and sent to the turtlesim node, which moves the turtle accordingly.

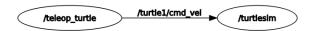
Question 6 - Screenshots



(a) Running the ROS Master with roscore.



(b) Running the keyboard teleoperation node.



(c) The RQT graph visualizing the connection between the /teleop_turtle publisher and the /turtlesim subscriber over the /turtle1/cmd_vel topic.

Question 6 - Core ROS Commands

The following are fundamental command-line tools for interacting with the ROS system:

rosservice is used to call services, which are request/response style operations in ROS.

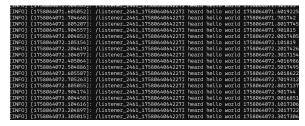
rostopic allows you to view, publish, and subscribe to topics, which are continuous data streams.

rosparam manages parameters on the parameter server, such as configuration values.

rosbag is used to record and replay topic data, which is useful for debugging or testing without live inputs.

Question 7 - Publishers and Subscribers

This exercise demonstrates the fundamental **publish/subscribe model** in ROS by creating two communicating nodes. First, a publisher node is written in Python to broadcast messages of a specific type onto a named channel called a topic (e.g., 'chatter'). Concurrently, a subscriber node is created to listen to that same topic. The subscriber uses a callback function that automatically executes to process each message it receives, typically by printing it to the console. To run the system, **roscore** is started first, followed by launching the publisher and subscriber nodes in separate terminals using **rosrun**. Successful communication is verified by observing the subscriber's output and using command-line tools like **rostopic list** and **rostopic echo** to inspect the topic's activity.



(a) Subscriber Logs.

root@jlawton14:/tmp/bagfiles# rostopic list /chatter /rosout /rosout_agg

(b) Validating the topic.

Team Contributions

The five members of our team made equal contributions to this lab (20% each). While each member began by independently setting up their environment and working through the exercises, the final report was a collaborative effort. We collated our individual results, discussed our findings, and jointly wrote the final document.

Resources Consulted

- Official documentation of ROS for more information on packages.
- ROS tutorial for writing a pub-sub model.
- LLMs for in-depth explanations and for some formatting help with LaTeX.