

# MAD76 Academy: ROS2 Coding

Frank Tränkle\*  
Hochschule Heilbronn, Germany

August 29, 2025

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>What is ROS</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1	Why ROS? . . . . .	7
<b>3</b>	<b>MAD76 and ROS</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1	ROS2 Workspaces and Packages . . . . .	12
<b>4</b>	<b>ROS2 Joystick Input</b>	<b>15</b>
4.1	Start ROS2 Joystick Node . . . . .	16
4.2	Measure ROS2 Joystick Messages . . . . .	17
<b>5</b>	<b>ROS2 Node for MAD76 IO</b>	<b>21</b>
5.1	ROS2 Workspace and Package for MAD76 IO . . . . .	22
5.2	Code and Run ROS2 Node . . . . .	24
<b>6</b>	<b>Joystick Control of MAD76</b>	<b>33</b>
6.1	Functional Chain of Control Theory . . . . .	34
6.2	ROS2 Node for Joystick Control . . . . .	35

6.3 ROS2 Node for Safe Car Control . . . . . 45

# 1 Agenda

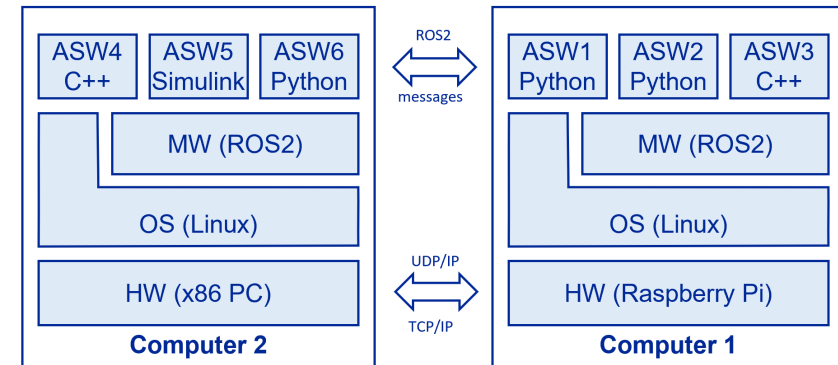
- What is ROS? Why ROS? (see Section 2)
- MAD76 and ROS2 (see Section 3)
- ROS2 Joystick Input (see Section 4)
- ROS2 Node for MAD76 IO (see Section 5)
- Joystick Control of MAD76 (see Section 6)

## Teaching Objectives

- Understand middlewares (MWs) for automotive and robotics
- Understand computer communication with MWs
- Learn how to operate ROS2 on command line
- Learn how to measure signals with ROS2
- Learn how to code for ROS2 in Python
- Learn functional chain in Control Theory / Embedded Systems with message-based-communication of signals

## 2 What is ROS

- Robot Operating System (ROS) is a middleware (MW) and not an operating system (OS)
  - *Middleware (MW)* = Intermediate SW between OS and application software (ASW)
- ROS is a programming framework for robotics and automotive
- ROS is for distributed computing
- ROS is for embedded, realtime systems
  - *Embedded* = Computer controls device (vehicle, robot, TV, smartphone, etc.)
  - *Realtime* = Guaranteed response within pre-defined time intervals
- ROS supports the following operating systems
  - Linux, Windows, macOS, QNX
- ROS provides programming libraries and tools for coding in a wide variety of languages and environments
  - Python, C, C++, Rust, MATLAB/Simulink, Bash, etc.



- ROS includes tools for measuring, simulation, visualization, and debugging
- ROS is open-source and has a large community
- ROS is for academics and industry
- We use ROS2 Jazzy Jalisco [2], the second generation of ROS

## 2.1 Why ROS?

- ROS apps are easy to code
- Distributed computing is straightforward
- Apps are easy to port from one HW or OS to another
- Communication is transparent, platform- and language-independent
- Easy switch between simulation and real system
- ROS provides a large set of ready-to-use libraries for robotics and automotive
  - cameras, LiDAR, GPS, inertial measurement units (IMU), etc.
  - robot arms, wheels, motors, etc.
  - robot control, navigation, object tracking, mapping, etc.
- ROS is easy to configure and program, compared to other middlewares (e.g., AUTOSAR, Robert Bosch AOS)
- But: standard ROS is not as safe and secure

### 3 MAD76 and ROS

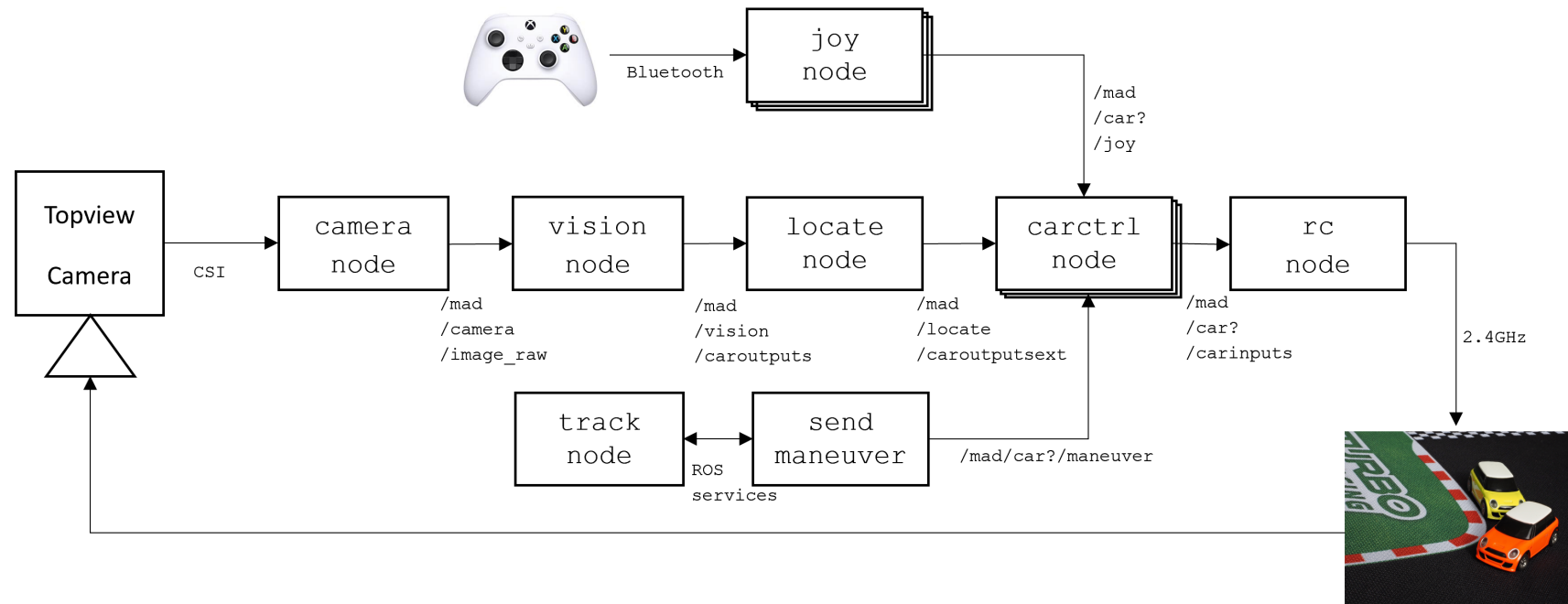


Figure 1: ROS2 nodes and topics of MAD76 Driving Stack



- The MAD76 driving stack is a ROS2 application
- *ROS2 Node*
  - software component
  - typically one Linux process
  - communicates with other ROS2 nodes via messages and services
- *ROS2 Topic*
  - message-based communication channel with a unique topic name and a predefined message type
  - topic name is a string
  - topic name may be organized in hierarchies (similar to file paths)
  - ROS2 uses a publish-subscribe pattern (similar to WhatsApp groups)
    - \* multiple nodes can publish messages to the same topic
    - \* multiple nodes can subscribe to the same topic and receive the same messages
  - internally ROS2 communication is implemented using Data Distribution Service (DDS) with TCP/IP, UDP/IP, or shared memory

- The rectangles are *ROS2 nodes*

ROS2 Node	Description
camera_node	standard ROS2 node for RPi camera input and image acquisition [1]
joy_node	standard ROS2 node for joystick input [3] (will be used in this session)
visionnode	computer vision based on AruCo markers
locatenode	multi-object tracking
carctrlnode	speed control, position control, pathfollowing control, racing
rcnode	controls cars via MAD76 IO (will be developed in this session)
tracknode	stores map of MAD76 map
sendmaneuver	generates maneuvers for cars

- The single-pointed arrows are *ROS2 topics*

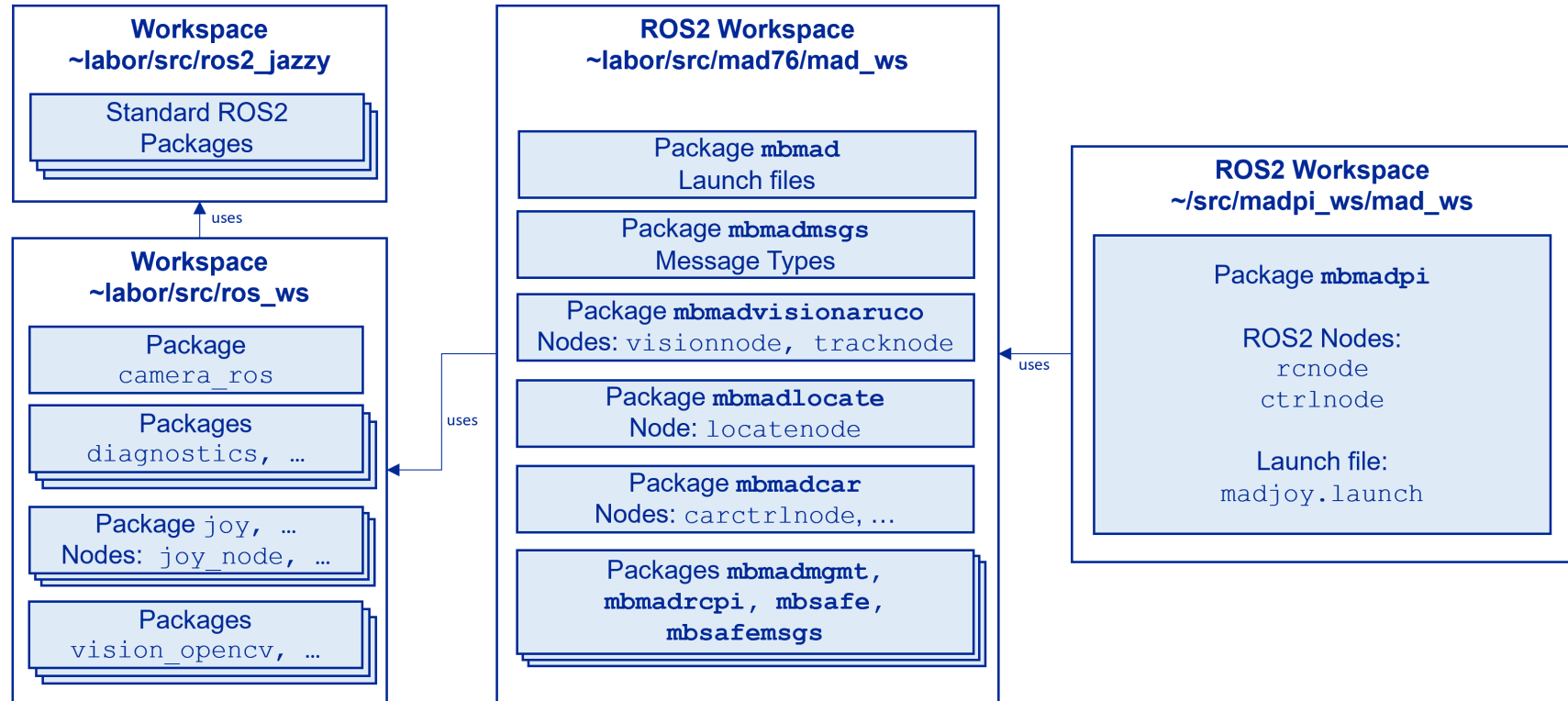
ROS2 Topic	ROS2 Message Type	Description
/mad/camera/image_raw	sensor_msgs.msg.Image	camera frames with sampling time 25ms
/mad/vision/caroutputs	mbmadmsgs.msg.CarOutputsList	list of car poses
/mad/locate/caroutputsext	mbmadmsgs.msg.CarOutputsExtList	list of car poses including velocities
/mad/car?/carinputs	mbmadmsgs.msg.CarInputs	control signals for each individual car
/mad/car?/maneuver	mbmadmsgs.msg.DriveManeuver	maneuvers for path following and parking
/mad/car?/joy	sensor_msgs.msg.Joy	standard ROS2 joystick messages

- The double-pointed arrow is a *ROS2 service*

- A service is similar to a function call
- But across process boundaries
- A service can have a request and a response (similar to function arguments and return values)

### 3.1 ROS2 Workspaces and Packages

- ROS2 is for *component-based SW engineering*
  - SW is engineered in teams or world-wide
  - Individual SW engineers develop individual SW components in teams
  - With reducing the number of team conflicts
- ROS2 organizes SW in ROS2 workspaces and ROS2 packages
  - *ROS2 workspaces* consist of ROS2 packages
  - *ROS2 packages* contain
    - \* ROS2 nodes
    - \* Message and service type definitions
    - \* Launch files
  - ROS2 workspaces may depend on each other
  - ROS2 packages may depend on each other



## Exercises

1. Adjust the Raspberry Pi camera according to Mounting Camera, Focus and Aperture.

# 4 ROS2 Joystick Input

### Agenda

- Start ROS2 joystick node (see Section 4.1)
- Measure ROS2 joystick messages (see Section 4.2)

## 4.1 Start ROS2 Joystick Node

- ROS2 nodes are started using the command

```
ros2 run <package> <node>
```

package	ROS2 package (packages contain nodes, message types, etc. and have unique namespaces)
node	ROS2 node (binary)

- The following ROS2 command starts ROS2 node joy\_node from ROS2package joy

```
ros2 run joy joy_node
```

- ROS2 package joy is available from standard ROS2 workspace ~labor/src/ros\_ws

- ROS2 node joy\_node accesses joystick via Linux Joystick API
- joy\_node reads in all joystick axes and button values
- joy\_node publishes joystick input as ROS2 messages to the ROS2 topic /joy

- List all running nodes

```
ros2 node list
```

- List all available topics

```
ros2 topic list
```



## 4.2 Measure ROS2 Joystick Messages

- ROS2 messages can be measured by using the command

```
ros2 topic echo <topic>
```

topic | Topic to be subscribed to. All messages published to this topic will be displayed.

- Open a new terminal and measure joystick messages on topic /joy

```
ros2 topic echo /joy
```

- Make sure that the joystick is powered on and connected to bluetooth according to <https://pimylifeup.com/xbox-controllers-raspberry-pi/>
- Move the joystick levers and push buttons ~↔ message output is changing accordingly
- The following command shows the frequency of joystick messages

```
ros2 topic hz /joy
```

## ROS2 Message Types

- ROS2 node `joy_node` publishes ROS2 messages of type `sensor_msgs.msg.Joy` on ROS2 topic `/joy`
- Message types in ROS2 are defined in `.msg` files
- You can view the definition of the message type `sensor_msgs.msg.Joy` by entering

```
ros2 interface show sensor_msgs/msg/Joy
```

- or by

```
less ~/labor/src/ros2_jazzy/install/sensor_msgs/share/sensor_msgs/msg/Joy.msg
```

- The message type `sensor_msgs::msg::Joy` has the following fields

Field Name	ROS2 Type	Description
header	<code>std_msgs::msg::Header</code>	Standard message header containing timestamp in nanoseconds
axes	<code>float32[]</code>	Joystick axes values
buttons	<code>int32[]</code>	Joystick button states

## Signals

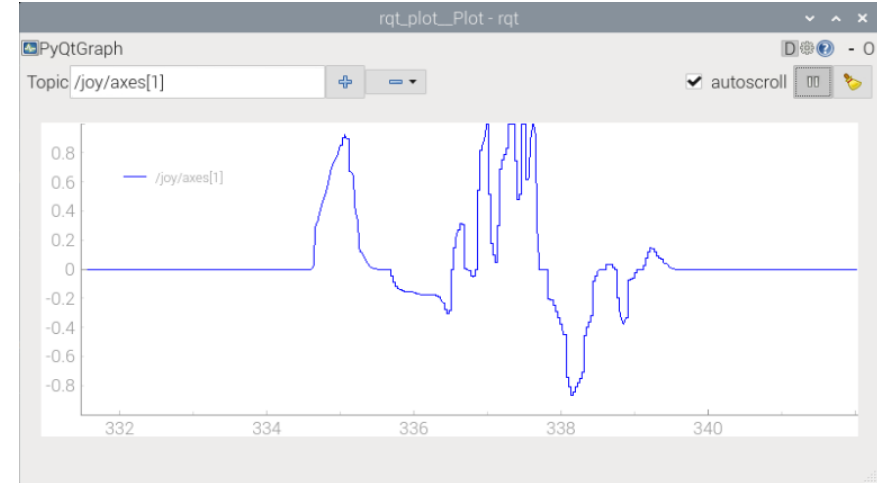
- *Signals* are a key mathematical concept in *Control Theory* (3rd semester at university)
- Joystick axes and button values are *signals*
- Signals are measurement values with a time axis
- A signal  $f$  can be expressed as a mathematical function of time:  $f : t \mapsto f(t)$
- Example: signal function  $u_J(t)$  for the vertical axis of the left joystick lever
  - we will use  $u_J(t)$  to control the car via MAD76 IO
- Signals can be depicted in signal-time-diagrams
- Signals may be encoded in messages
- ROS2 provides tools for visualizing and analyzing these signals
- Standard ROS2 node `rqt_plot` can be used to plot the signals in a realtime signal-time-diagram

```
ros2 run rqt_plot rqt_plot
```

- Enter `/joy/axes[1]` in the entry field Topic to plot  $u_J(t)$

<code>/joy</code>	topic name
<code>/axes</code>	field axes of message type
	<code>sensor_msgs.msg.Joy</code>
<code>[1]</code>	zero-based index of the joystick axis

- The x-axis in this signal-time-diagram is the time axis  $t$  in seconds
- The y-axis is the value axis  $u_J \in [-1, 1]$  of signal function  $u_J(t)$
- You may zoom the plot using the mouse wheel or the right mouse button with horizontal or vertical drag
- You may move the plot using the left mouse button



## 5 ROS2 Node for MAD76 IO

### Agenda

- Create a new ROS2 workspace and package for MAD76 IO (see Section 5.1)
- Create and run ROS2 node for MAD76 IO power and potis (see Section 5.2)

## 5.1 ROS2 Workspace and Package for MAD76 IO

- Create
  - a new ROS2 workspace `~/src/madpi_ws`
  - a new ROS2 package `mbmadpi` in this ROS2 workspace
  - a new ROS2 node `rcnode` in this ROS2 package

```
cd ~/src/madpi_ws/src
ros2 pkg create --node-name=rcnode --build-type=ament_python mbmadpi
```

- Build this workspace and make it available in ROS2

```
cd ~/src/madpi_ws
colcon build --symlink-install
source install/setup.bash
```

- **IMPORTANT:** The build command `colcon` must be executed in ROS2 workspace directory `~/src/madpi_ws` and nowhere else
- `colcon` builds all ROS2 packages in this workspace
- `source install/setup.bash` runs the Bash script `setup.bash` which
  - \* sets up the environment for the workspace
  - \* makes the ROS2 packages, nodes, etc. available in ROS2 commands, e.g., `ros2 run`

- Edit the initialization Bash script ~/.bashrc so that the ROS2 environment is always available in all terminals
  - Open file ~/.bashrc in VS Code
  - Add the following line at the end of the file

```
source ~/src/madpi_ws/install/setup.bash
```

- Run the new ROS2 node rcnode of the new ROS package mbmadpi

```
ros2 run mbmadpi rcnode
```

- The above command `ros2 pkg create` has automatically created a simple Python module `rcnode.py` which prints a "Hello world" message
- We will now modify this module for doing real MAD76 IO

## 5.2 Code and Run ROS2 Node

### Coding ROS2 Node rcnode

- The new ROS2 node rcnode will control the MAD76 IO by digital output and SPI in the same way as Python module rctest.py from learning session MAD76 I/O Programming
- It will re-use the Python library mbmadrclib.py from learning session MAD76 I/O Programming
- Copy mbmadrclib.py to the new ROS2 package mbmadpi

```
cd ~/src/madpi_ws/src/mbmadpi/mbmadpi
cp ~/src/madpi_ws/src/rcpi/scripts/mbmadrclib.py .
```

- Open ROS2 workspace ~/src/madpi\_ws in VS Code

```
cd ~/src/madpi_ws
code .
```

- Open file rcnode.py in VS Code
- Modify file rcnode.py as follows (or copy it from ~labor/src/mad76/madpi\_ws/src/mbmadpi/mbmadpi/rcnode.py)

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3

"""
rcnode.py
```



```
-----

ROS2 Node to remotely control MAD76 cars

Copyright (C) 2025, Frank Traenkle, Hochschule Heilbronn
"""

import sys
import rclpy
import rclpy.node
import mbmadmsgs.msg
try:
    import mbmadpi.mbmadrclib as rc
except ImportError:
    import mbmadrclib as rc
try:
    import mbmadpi.carparameters as p
except ImportError:
    import carparameters as p

class RcNode(rclpy.node.Node):
    """
    RcNode is a ROS2 Node to remotely control MAD76 cars.
    """
```

```
def __init__(self):
    """
    RcNode constructor.
    super().__init__('rcnode', namespace='/mad')

def init(self):
    """ Initialize the RcNode.

    Returns:
        bool: True if initialization was successful, False otherwise.
    """
    self.carid = 0
    self.spi = rc.initialize_spi()
    if not self.spi:
        self.get_logger().info("Failed to initialize SPI.")
        return False

    # initialize GPIO
    rc.initialize_gpio()

    # switch on power for the specified car
    rc.switchon_rcpower(self.carid)

    qosBestEffort = rclpy.qos.QoSProfile(
        reliability = rclpy.qos.QoSReliabilityPolicy.BEST_EFFORT,
```

```
        durability = rclpy.qos.QoS DurabilityPolicy.VOLATILE,
        history = rclpy.qos.QoS HistoryPolicy.KEEP_LAST,
        depth=1)
    qosReliable = rclpy.qos.QoS Profile(
        reliability = rclpy.qos.QoS ReliabilityPolicy.RELIABLE,
        durability = rclpy.qos.QoS DurabilityPolicy.VOLATILE,
        history = rclpy.qos.QoS HistoryPolicy.KEEP_LAST,
        depth=1)
    self.sub_carinputs = self.create_subscription(
        mbmadmsgs.msg.CarInputs,
        f'/mad/car{self.carid}/carinputs',
        self.carinputs_callback,
        qosBestEffort
    )

    return True

def spin(self):
    """ Spin the RcNode to process incoming messages."""
    rclpy.spin(self.node)

def destroy(self):
    """ Clean up resources and shutdown the RcNode."""
    self.destroy_node()
```

```
def carinputs_callback(self, msg):
    """ Callback function for car inputs messages.

    Args:
        msg (mbmadmsgs.msg.CarInputs): The CarInputs message containing carid, pedals, and steering.
    """
    #self.get_logger().info(f'CarInputs msg received: carid={msg.carid}, pedals={msg.pedals}, steering={msg.steering}')

    # saturate pedals
    pedals = msg.pedals
    if pedals > p.P_UN_MAX:
        pedals = p.P_UN_MAX
    elif pedals < -p.P_UN_MAX:
        pedals = -p.P_UN_MAX

    # saturate steering
    steering = msg.steering
    if steering > p.P_DELTAN_MAX:
        steering = p.P_DELTAN_MAX
    elif steering < -p.P_DELTAN_MAX:
        steering = -p.P_DELTAN_MAX

    # SPI output
```

```
rc.write_pedals(self.spi, self.carid, pedals)
rc.write_steering(self.spi, self.carid, steering)

def main():
    """ Main function to initialize and run the RcNode."""
    ret = 0
    rclpy.init(args=sys.argv)
    node = RcNode()
    if not node.init():
        node.get_logger().info("Initialization failed, shutting down.")
        ret = 1
    else:
        rclpy.spin(node)
        node.destroy_node()
        rclpy.shutdown()
    sys.exit(ret)

if __name__ == '__main__':
    main()
```

- rcnode.py depends on carparameters.py
- Create Python module carparameters.py in the same directory as rcnode.py with the following content (or copy it from ~labor/src/mad76/madpi\_ws/src/mbmadpi/mbmadpi/carparameters.py)

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3
```

```
"""
carparameters.py
-----

MAD76 car parameters

Copyright (C) 2025, Frank Traenkle, Hochschule Heilbronn
"""

P_UN_MAX = 0.2 # maximum normalized pedals signal [ 1 ]
P_DELTAN_MAX = 0.93 # maximum normalized steering signal [ 1 ]

TRACK_SIZE = [ -0.1, 0.82, 0.0, 0.5 ] # track size in [ m ]: [ x_min, x_max, y_min, y_max ]
SAFETY_BOUNDARY = 100e-3 # safety boundary in [ m ]: distance to track boundary

JOY_PEDALSAXIS = 1 # joystick axis for pedals
JOY_STEERINGAXIS = 2 # joystick axis for steering
JOY_BUTTON_A = 0 # joystick button for A (override safety halt)
```

## Running ROS2 Node rcnode

- You may now run `rcnode.py` directly in VS Code
- or re-build the ROS2 workspace

```
cd ~/src/madpi_ws  
colcon build --symlink-install
```

- and run the new ROS2 node

```
ros2 run mbmadpi rcnode
```

- `rcnode` subscribes to ROS2 topic `/mad/car0/carinputs` and processes incoming messages of type `mbmadmsgs.msg.CarInputs`
- Message type `mbmadmsgs.msg.CarInputs` has the following fields

Field	Data Type	Description
carid	uint8	car ID (0, 1, 2, ...)
pedals	float32	normalized pedals signal in range $u_n \in [-1, 1]$
steering	float32	normalized steering signal in range $\delta_n \in [-1, 1]$
...		

- Car 0 is controlled by sending messages to ROS2 topic /mad/car0/carinputs with the following command

```
ros2 topic pub /mad/car0/carinputs mbmadmsgs.msg.CarInputs "{carid: 0, pedals: 0.1, steering: 1.0}"
```

- You may display the current messages on ROS2 topic /mad/car0/carinputs by

```
ros2 topic echo /mad/car0/carinputs
```

- Or use rqt\_plot

```
ros2 run rqt_plot rqt_plot
```

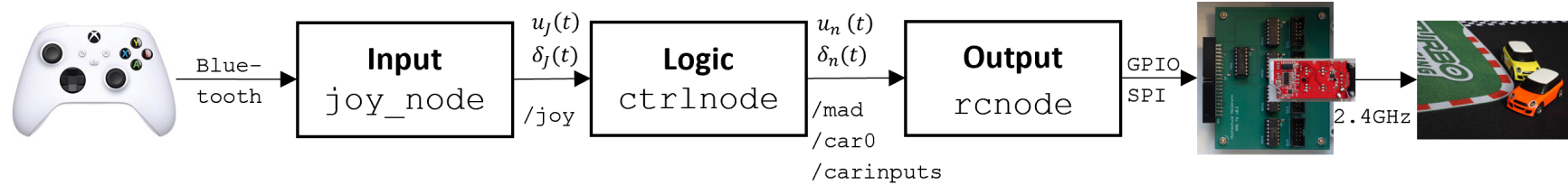


## 6 Joystick Control of MAD76

### Agenda

- Functional chain of Control Theory (see Section 6.1)
- ROS2 node for joystick control (see Section 6.2)
- Exercise: ROS2 node for safe car control (see Section 6.3)

## 6.1 Functional Chain of Control Theory



### ■ Input

- ROS2 node `joy_node` reads in sensor signals (joystick inputs)

### ■ Logic

- ROS2 node `ctrlnode` runs algorithms or AI agents
- Algorithms or AI agents compute control signals
- such that, robot / car moves in a pre-defined or optimal way

### ■ Output

- ROS2 node `rcnode` outputs control signals to manipulate robot / car
- by electromechanical actuators (MAD76 IO, motor, steering)

## 6.2 ROS2 Node for Joystick Control

- New ROS2 node ctrlnode
  - subscribes to joystick inputs on topic /joy and message type `sensor_msgs.msg.Joy`

Field	Data Type	Description
<code>axes[1]</code>	<code>float32</code>	joystick signal for motor $u_J \in [-1, 1]$
<code>axes[2]</code>	<code>float32</code>	joystick signal for steering $\delta_J \in [-1, 1]$

- computes control signals for motor and steering based on joystick inputs

Signal	Description
$u_n$	normalized motor signal $u_n = 0.2 \cdot u_J$
$\delta_n$	normalized steering signal $\delta_n = 0.93 \cdot \delta_J$

- publishes control signals on topic /mad/car0/carinputs and message type `mbmadmsgs.msg.CarInputs`

Field	Data Type	Description
<code>carid</code>	<code>uint8</code>	0
<code>pedals</code>	<code>float32</code>	$u_n$
<code>steering</code>	<code>float32</code>	$\delta_n$

## Coding ROS2 Node ctrlnode

- Create ctrlnode.py in directory ~/src/madpi\_ws/src/mbmadpi/mbmadpi with VS Code
- Enter the following code

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3

"""
ctrlnode.py
-----

ROS2 Node for joystick control of MAD76 cars

Copyright (C) 2025, Frank Traenkle, Hochschule Heilbronn
"""

import sys
import rclpy
import rclpy.node
import mbmadmsgs.msg
import sensor_msgs.msg
try:
    import mbmadpi.carparameters as p
except ImportError:
    import carparameters as p
```

```
class CtrlNode(rclpy.node.Node):
    """
    CtrlNode is a ROS2 Node for joystick control of MAD76 cars.
    """

    def __init__(self):
        """
        CtrlNode constructor.
        """
        super().__init__('ctrlnode', namespace='/mad')

    def init(self):
        """ Initialize the CtrlNode.

        Returns:
            bool: True if initialization was successful, False otherwise.
        """
        self.carid = 0

        qosBestEffort = rclpy.qos.QoSProfile(
            reliability = rclpy.qos.QoSReliabilityPolicy.BEST_EFFORT,
            durability = rclpy.qos.QoSDurabilityPolicy.VOLATILE,
            history = rclpy.qos.QoSHistoryPolicy.KEEP_LAST,
            depth=1)
```

```
qosReliable = rclpy.qos.QoSProfile(
    reliability = rclpy.qos.QoSReliabilityPolicy.RELIABLE,
    durability = rclpy.qos.QoSDurabilityPolicy.VOLATILE,
    history = rclpy.qos.QoSHistoryPolicy.KEEP_LAST,
    depth=1)
self.pub_carinputs = self.create_publisher(
    mbmadmsgs.msg.CarInputs,
    f'/mad/car{self.carid}/carinputs',
    qosBestEffort
)
self.sub_joy = self.create_subscription(
    sensor_msgs.msg.Joy,
    f'/joy',
    self.joy_callback,
    qosReliable
)

return True

def spin(self):
    """ Spin the RcNode to process incoming messages."""
    rclpy.spin(self.node)

def destroy(self):
```

```
        """ Clean up resources and shutdown the RcNode."""
        self.destroy_node()

def joy_callback(self, msg):
    """ Callback function for joystick messages.

    Args:
        msg (sensor_msgs.msg.Joy): Joystick message containing control and button inputs.
    """
    pedals = msg.axes[p.JOY_PEDALSAXIS] * p.P_UN_MAX # normalized pedals signal
    steering = msg.axes[p.JOY_STEERINGAXIS] * p.P_DELTAN_MAX # normalized steering signal
    carinputs_msg = mbmadmsgs.msg.CarInputs()
    carinputs_msg.carid = self.carid
    carinputs_msg.pedals = pedals
    carinputs_msg.steering = steering
    self.pub_carinputs.publish(carinputs_msg)

def main():
    """ Main function to initialize and run the RcNode."""
    ret = 0
    rclpy.init(args=sys.argv)
    node = CtrlNode()
    if not node.init():
        node.get_logger().info("Initialization failed, shutting down.")
    ret = 1
```

```
    else:
        try:
            rclpy.spin(node)
        except KeyboardInterrupt:
            node.get_logger().info("Ctrl-C received, shutting down.")
        finally:
            node.destroy_node()
            rclpy.shutdown()
    sys.exit(ret)

if __name__ == '__main__':
    main()
```

- Register the new ROS2 node ctrlnode in ROS2 package mbmadpi by editing ~/src/madpi\_ws/src/mbmadpi/setup.py

```
from setuptools import find_packages, setup
import os

package_name = 'mbmadpi'

# Collect all files in launch directory
launch_files = []
for root, dirs, files in os.walk(os.path.join(package_name, '..', 'launch')):
    for file in files:
        launch_files.append(os.path.join(root, file))
```



```
setup(
    name=package_name,
    version='0.0.0',
    packages=find_packages(exclude=['test']),
    data_files=[
        ('share/ament_index/resource_index/packages',
         ['resource/' + package_name]),
        ('share/' + package_name, ['package.xml']),
        ('share/' + package_name + '/launch', launch_files),
    ],
    install_requires=['setuptools'],
    zip_safe=True,
    maintainer='traenkle',
    maintainer_email='frank.traenkle@hs-heilbronn.de',
    description='MAD76 Python-Only Package',
    license='GPL-3.0-only',
    tests_require=['pytest'],
    entry_points={
        'console_scripts': [
            'rcnode = mbmadpi.rcnode:main',
            'ctrlnode = mbmadpi.ctrlnode:main',
        ],
    },
)
```

- Rebuild ROS2 workspace ~/src/madpi\_ws

```
cd ~/src/madpi_ws  
colcon build --symlink-install
```

## Running the Functional Chain

- Run the functional chain for MAD76 joystick control, namely the ROS2 nodes
  - joy\_node for reading joystick inputs
  - ctrlnode for computing control signals
  - rcnode for output of the control signals to MAD76 IO
- Start the ROS2 nodes in separate terminals

```
ros2 run joy joy_node
```

```
ros2 run mbmadpi ctrlnode
```

```
ros2 run mbmadpi rcnode
```

- You can now control the red car 0 using the joystick

## ROS2 Launch Files

- For easier ROS2 startup, launch files can run all ROS2 nodes at once
- Launch files can be coded in the following languages: YAML, XML, Python
- We use Extended Markup Language (XML)
- Create an XML launch file `madjoy.launch` in directory `~/src/madpi_ws/src/mbmadpi/launch`

```
<launch>
  <node pkg="joy" exec="joy_node" name="joy_node" output="screen"/>
  <node pkg="mbmadpi" exec="rcnode" name="rcnode" namespace="/mad/car0" output="screen"/>
  <node pkg="mbmadpi" exec="ctrlnode" name="ctrlnode" namespace="/mad/car0" output="screen"/>
</launch>
```

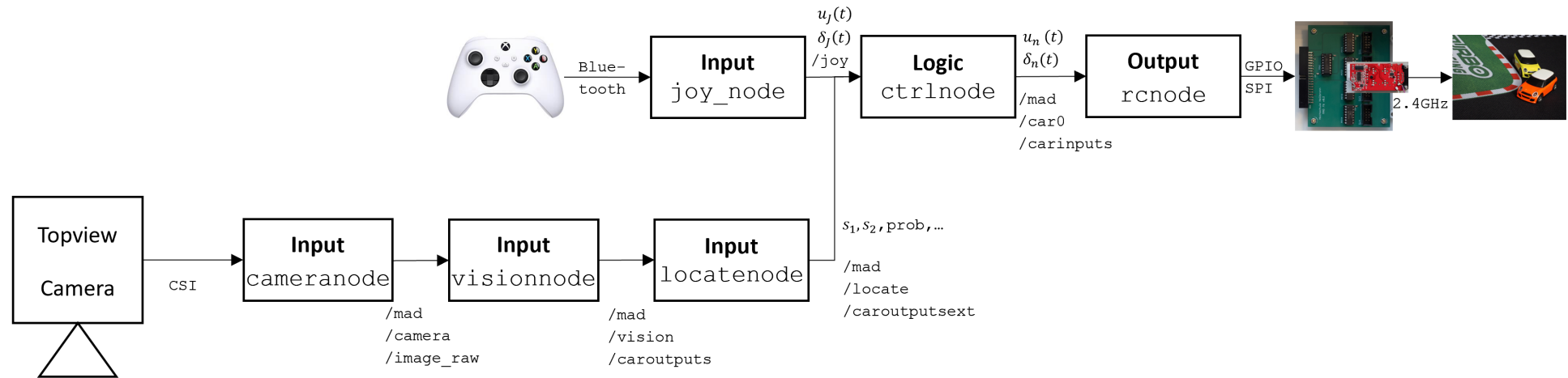
- Rebuild ROS2 workspace `~/src/madpi_ws`

```
cd ~/src/madpi_ws
colcon build --symlink-install
```

- Now you can start all 3 ROS2 nodes at once by running the launch file

```
ros2 launch mbmadpi madjoy.launch
```

## 6.3 ROS2 Node for Safe Car Control



- ROS2 node ctrlnode shall be extended by safety halt
- Car should stop if car is not on track or computer vision fails
- ctrlnode shall subscribe to topic /mad/locate/caroutputsext from node locatenode

- Messages on `/mad/locate/caroutputsext` have the message type `mbmadmsgs.msg.CarOutputsExtList`

Field	Data Type	Description
list	<code>mbmadmsgs.msg.CarOutputsExt[]</code>	list of cars, one entry per car
...		

- Message type `mbmadmsgs.msg.CarOutputsExt` for each car

Field	Data Type	Description	Unit
s	<code>float32[2]</code>	array of the 2 Cartesian coordinates $s_1(t), s_2(t)$ of the car's rear axle center position	m
v	<code>float32</code>	speed $v(t)$	m/s
psi	<code>float32</code>	yaw angle (orientation) $\psi(t) \in [-\pi, \pi]$	rad
prob	<code>float32</code>	probability (reliability) $P(t) \in [0\%, 100\%] = [0, 1]$ of valid measurement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– If <math>P = 1</math> then computer vision has detected car with full reliability.</li> <li>– If <math>P = 0</math> then computer vision has not detected car (car is not on track or computer vision has failed).</li> <li>– If <math>P &lt; 1</math> then computer vision has errors and is unreliable.</li> </ul>	$[0, 1]$
...			

## Exercises

1. Extend the launch file `madjoy.launch` to run the computer vision in addition to the nodes `joy_node`, `ctrlnode`, and `rcnode`

```
<launch>
  <include file="$(find-pkg-share mbmad)/launch/madpicam.launch" />
  <include file="$(find-pkg-share mbmad)/launch/madpitrack.launch" />
  <node pkg="joy" exec="joy_node" name="joy_node" output="screen"/>
  <node pkg="mbmadpi" exec="rcnode" name="rcnode" namespace="/mad/car0" output="screen"/>
  <node pkg="mbmadpi" exec="ctrlnode" name="ctrlnode" namespace="/mad/car0" output="screen"/>
</launch>
```

2. Measure the car position signals  $s_1(t)$ ,  $s_2(t)$  with `rqt_plot` (see Section 4.2) by running the following commands in different terminals

```
ros2 launch mbmadpi madjoy.launch
```

```
ros2 run rqt_plot rqt_plot
```

and entering the following topics to the plot in `rqt_plot`

- `/mad/locate/caroutputsext/list[0]/s[0]`
- `/mad/locate/caroutputsext/list[0]/s[1]`

3. Identify boundaries for  $s_1, s_2$  based on the plotted data, such that car is on the track
4. Extend the Python code of ROS2 node ctrlnode to include a safety halt logic
  - (a) Extend method `init` to subscribe to the topic `/mad/locate/caroutputsext`
  - (b) Implement a callback function `caroutputsext_callback` that stores the received message for car 0

```
def caroutputsext_callback(self, msg):  
    """ Callback function for car position."""  
    self.carmsg = msg.list[self.carid]
```

- (c) Extend method `joy_callback` that uses `self.carmsg` to check if car is on track and the computer vision is reliable. If not then trigger a safety halt by setting pedals to 0.0.
  - (d) Test your code.



## References

- [1] Christian Rauch. *ROS2 Node for libcamera*. Accessed: 2025-08-19. 2025. URL: [https://github.com/christianrauch/camera\\_ros](https://github.com/christianrauch/camera_ros).
- [2] ROS. *ROS2 Jazzy Jalisco*. Accessed: 2025-08-19. 2025. URL: <https://docs.ros.org/en/jazzy/index.html>.
- [3] ROS. *ROS2 Package for Joysticks*. Accessed: 2025-08-19. 2025. URL: <https://index.ros.org/p/joy/>.