

# After install ROS Kinetic, cannot import OpenCV



I have first installed openCV from source using this [script](#). When I tested it was working well.

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After I installed [ROS kinetic](#), and open `python3` and run `import cv2`, got the following error:



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```
Python 3.5.2 (default, Nov 17 2016, 17:05:23)
[GCC 5.4.0 20160609] on linux
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> import cv2
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
ImportError: /opt/ros/kinetic/lib/python2.7/dist-packages/cv2.so: undefined
symbol: PyCObject_Type
```

python-3.x

opencv

ros

edited Mar 30 '18 at 7:31



mpour

304 2 14

asked Mar 25 '17 at 17:59



Alex

382 2 6 15

Your python3 is trying to load a python2 module?! Can you run the following commands and paste the output into your question?: `ldd /opt/ros/kinetic/lib/python2.7/dist-packages/cv2.so`, `echo $PYTHONPATH`, (in pythonconsole) `import sys; print(sys.path)`, – [at-2500](#) Mar 28 '17 at 0:11

## 10 Answers



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It looks like this problem is caused by ROS adding `/opt/ros/kinetic/lib/python2.7/dist-packages` to the python path. This actually happens when you activate ROS with the command `source /opt/ros/kinetic/setup.bash`. This line is often added at the end of your `bashrc` file, in `/home/username/.bashrc`.

A workaround is to remove this line from the `bashrc` file. This way the python3 opencv packages will be correctly used, and you can still run `source /opt/ros/kinetic/setup.bash` to use ROS. However, this does mean you cannot use ROS and python3 from the same environment.

Hopefully someone can come up with a better answer, but this should work until then.

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