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ROS

Visualisation Tools







What is RVIZ?

- RVIZ (ROS Visualization)
- Is a 3D visualisation environment
- Made to simplify debugging using visual tools.
- RVIZ allows the user to see what the robot is seeing, thinking and doing.

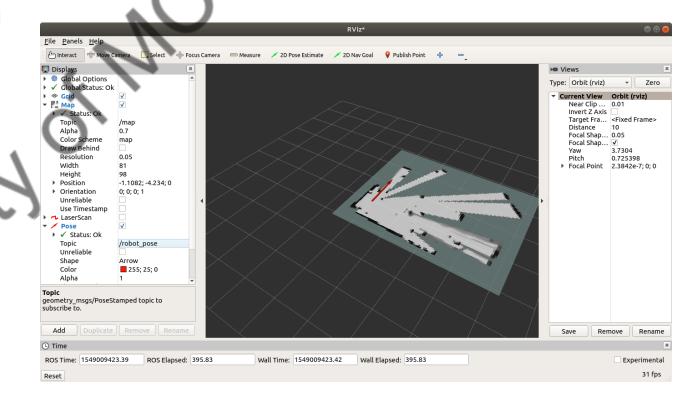
"See the world through the robot's eyes."







- There are two main ways of putting data into RVIZ.
 - Via messages, where it understands sensors and state information, like laser scans, point clouds, cameras, and coordinate frames.
 - They have specialised displays to let the user configure how to view that information.
 - Information markers, letting the user send cubes, arrows and lines coloured however you want.
- The combination of sensor data and custom visualisation markers makes RVIZ a powerful tool for robotic development.





Run the node



Quick Start (USB camera)

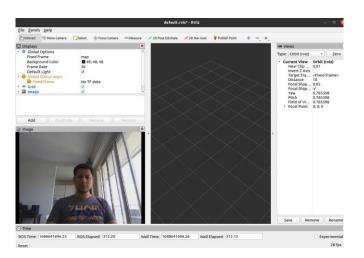
- Download the rospackage usb_cam
 sudo apt install ros-<\$DISTRO>-usb-cam
- ros2 run usb_cam usb_cam_node_exe
- Check that the topics are being published
 ros2 topic list

• Start RVIZ

ros2 run rviz2 rviz2

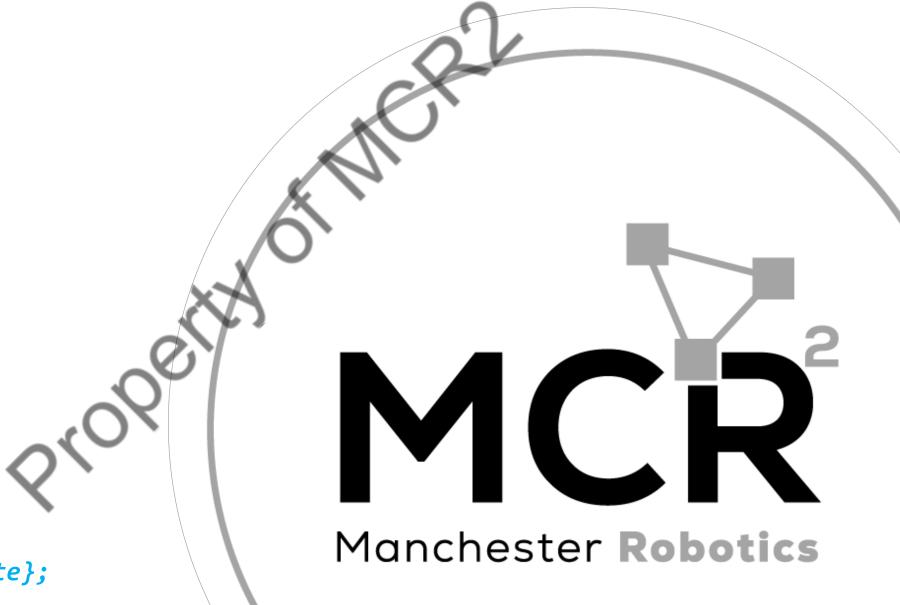
- Press the "add" button
- Go to the tab "By topic"
- Add the topic Camera, located under the topics/usb_cam -> /image_raw





RVIZ

Markers



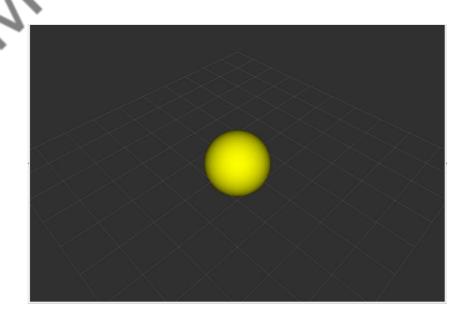
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What are markers?

- One of the key features of RViz is the ability to visualize markers.
- Markers are graphical objects that represent different types of data in the 3D space.
- They can display points, lines, meshes, text, and more.
- Markers are typically published as ROS messages and can be subscribed to by RViz for visualisation.
- RViz provides a user-friendly interface for adding, configuring, and visualizing markers.

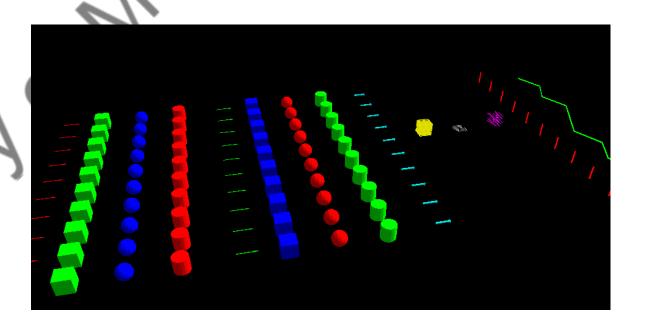






Type of markers?

- There are different types of markers that help us to visualise information in RViz.
- The basic markers are points, cubes, spheres, arrows, and lines.
- The user can set up and define its own markers and make them move.





string mesh resource

bool mesh use embedded materials



• Markers are defined as ROS messages (composed of submessages) in which the user inputs the type of marker, configuration and characteristics. More information here and here

```
uint8 ARROW=0, uint8 CUBE=1, uint8 SPHERE=2, uint8 CYLINDER=3, uint8 LINE STRIP=4
uint8 LINE LIST=5, uint8 CUBE LIST=6, uint8 SPHERE LIST=7, uint8 POINTS=8, uint8 TEXT VIEW FACING=9, uint8 MESH RESOURCE=10,
uint8 TRIANGLE LIST=11
uint8 ADD=0, uint8 MODIFY=0, uint8 DELETE=2,
uint8 DELETEALL=3
                                     # header for time/frame informatio
Header header
                                     # Namespace to place this object in... used in conjunction with id to create a unique name for the object
string ns
                                   # object ID useful in conjunction with the namespace for manipulating and deleting the object later
int32 id
int32 type
                                   # Type of object
                                    # 0 add/modify an object, 1 (deprecated), 2 deletes an object, 3 deletes all objects
int32 action
geometry msqs/Pose pose
                                        # Pose of the object
                                        # Scale of the object 1,1,1 means default (usually 1 meter square)
geometry msgs/Vector3 scale
                                     # Color [0.0-1.0]
std msgs/ColorRGBA color
                                     # How long the object should last before being automatically deleted. O means forever
duration lifetime
                                     # If this marker should be frame-locked, i.e. retransformed into its frame every timestep
bool frame locked
#Only used if the type specified has some use for them (eg. POINTS, LINE STRIP, ...)
geometry msgs/Point[] points
#Only used if the type specified has some use for them (eg. POINTS, LINE STRIP, \ldots)
#number of colors must either be 0 or equal to the number of points
#NOTE: alpha is not yet used
std msgs/ColorRGBA[] colors
# NOTE: only used for text markers
string text
# NOTE: only used for MESH RESOURCE markers
```





Key Aspects

 When using Markers three key aspects must be taken into consideration.

Header

- Header Message: in this section the user define the marker frame and the time stamp.
- Markers must be attached to a frame of reference!

Header header # header for time/frame information

```
chassis = Marker()
chassis.header.frame_id = "base_link"
chassis.header.stamp = self.get_clock().now().to_msg()
```

Pose

 Pose Message, in this section the user define the pose (position and orientation) of the marker with respect to the frame of reference stated on the Header ("base_link"). The position is given by a point and the orientation by a quaternion.

geometry msgs/Pose pose # Pose of the object

```
chassis.pose.position.x = 0.205/2
chassis.pose.position.y = 0.0
chassis.pose.position.z = 0.0
chassis.pose.orientation.x = 0.0
chassis.pose.orientation.y = 0.0
chassis.pose.orientation.z = 0.0
chassis.pose.orientation.w = 1.0
```





Key Aspects

 When using Markers three key aspects must be taken into consideration.

Header

- Header Message: in this section the user define the marker frame and the time stamp.
- Markers must be attached to a frame of reference!

Header header # header for time/frame information

```
chassis = Marker()

chassis.header.frame_id = "base_link"

chassis.header.stamp = self.get_clock().now().to_msg()
```

Pose

- Pose Message, in this section the user define the pose (position and orientation) of the marker with respect to the frame of reference stated on the Header ("base_link"). The position is given by a point and the orientation by a quaternion.
- If the pose varies through time, it will be done w.r.t the header's frame of reference.

geometry msgs/Pose pose # Pose of the object

```
chassis.pose.position.x = 0.205/2
chassis.pose.position.y = 0.0
chassis.pose.position.z = 0.0
chassis.pose.orientation.x = 0.0
chassis.pose.orientation.y = 0.0
chassis.pose.orientation.z = 0.0
chassis.pose.orientation.w = 1.0
```



Markers

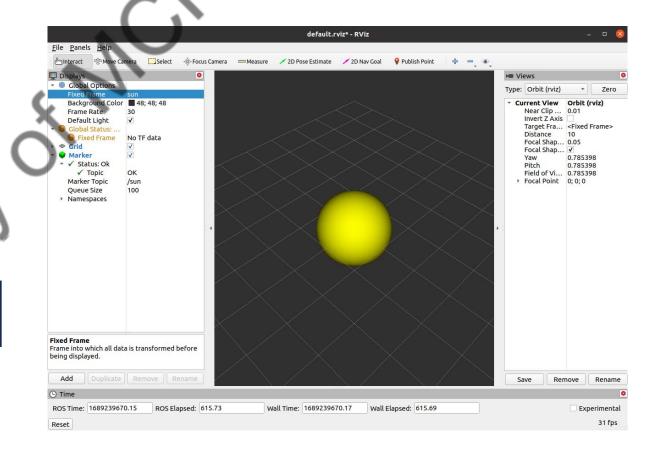


Scale

• <u>Vector3 message</u> in this section the user defines the Scale/Size of the object in each of its dimension's x,y,z.

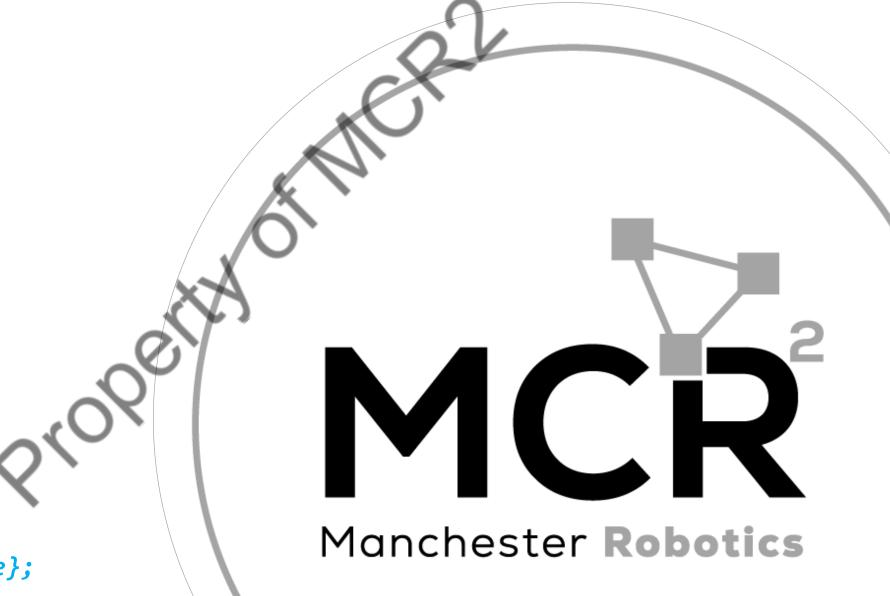
geometry_msgs/Vector3 scale # Scale of the object
1,1,1 means default (usually 1 meter square)

```
chassis.scale.x = 0.205
chassis.scale.y = 0.41
chassis.scale.z = 0.2
```



Activity 1

Markers



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Declaring a Static Transform from Launch File

- Make a package called "markers" and a node called "markers.py" with the following dependencies:
 - geometry_msgs, python3-numpy, rclpy, tf2_ros_py, ros2launch
 std_msgs_python3-transforms3d_visualization_msgs

\$ ros2 pkg create --build-type ament_python markers --license
Apache-2.0 --node-name markers --dependencies geometry_msgs
python3-numpy rclpy tf2_ros_py ros2launch std_msgs python3transforms3d visualization_msgs --description TF2_Examples -maintainer-name "Mario Martinez" --maintainer-email
mario.mtz@manchester-robotics.com

 Do not forget to give executable permissions to the newly created files

```
$ chmod +x markers/markers/*
```

```
markers/
LICENSE
markers
____init__.py
___markers.py
___package.xml
__resource
___markers
__setup.cfg
__setup.py
__test
___test_copyright.py
__test_flake8.py
__test_pep257.py
```





 Make a launch folder and a launch file called "simple_marker_launch.py"

```
#replace "YOUR_WS" with the name of tour workspace
$ cd ~/<YOUR_WS>/src/markers
$ mkdir launch
$ touch simple_marker_launch.py
$ chmod +x markers/launch/*
```

Change the "setup.py" to find the launch files





- Open the file markers.py
- Define a new marker called marker in the constructor.

```
# Message Declaration
self.marker = Marker()
```

• Define its publisher

```
self.publisher = self.create publisher(Marker, '/marker', 10)
```

- Initialise the marker (if needed) on the constructor
 - For this exercise the marker is defined w.r.t "map" frame.
- Define a timer to update the marker pose (next slide)
- Publish the marker

```
#Variables to be used
       self.omega = 0.5
        self.intial pos x = 0.0
        self.intial pos y = 0.0
        self.intial pos z = 1.0
       #initialise the marker(the pose and orientation will be
changed on the callback function)
       self.marker = Marker()
       self.marker.header.frame id = "map"
        self.marker.header.stamp = self.get clock().now().to msg()
        self.marker.id = 0
       self.marker.type = Marker.CUBE
        self.marker.action = Marker.ADD
        self.marker.pose.position.x = self.intial pos x
        self.marker.pose.position.y = self.intial pos y
        self.marker.pose.position.z = self.intial pos z
        self.marker.pose.orientation.x = 0.0
        self.marker.pose.orientation.y = 0.0
        self.marker.pose.orientation.z = 0.0
        self.marker.pose.orientation.w = 1.0
        self.marker.scale.x = 0.2
       self.marker.scale.y = 0.5
       self.marker.scale.z = 0.2
       self.marker.color.r = 1.0
       self.marker.color.g = 1.0
       self.marker.color.b = 0.0
       self.marker.color.a = 1.0
```

```
import rclpv
from rclpy.node import Node
from visualization_msgs.msg import Marker
import transforms3d
import numpy as np
from rclpy.duration import Duration
class MarkersPublisher(Node):
    def __init__(self):
        super(). init ('marker publisher')
        self.publisher = self.create publisher(Marker, '/marker', 10)
        #Variables to be used
        self.omega = 0.5
        self.intial_pos_x = 0.0
        self.intial pos y = 0.0
        self.intial pos z = 1.0
       #initialise the marker
        self.marker = Marker()
        self.marker.header.frame id = "map"
        self.marker.header.stamp = self.get clock().now().to msg()
        self.marker.id = 0
        self.marker.type = Marker.CUBE
        self.marker.action = Marker.ADD
        self.marker.pose.position.x = self.intial pos x
        self.marker.pose.position.y = self.intial pos y
        self.marker.pose.position.z = self.intial pos z
        self.marker.pose.orientation.x = 0.0
        self.marker.pose.orientation.y = 0.0
        self.marker.pose.orientation.z = 0.0
        self.marker.pose.orientation.w = 1.0
        self.marker.scale.x = 0.2
        self.marker.scale.y = 0.5
        self.marker.scale.z = 0.2
        self.marker.color.r = 1.0
        self.marker.color.g = 1.0
        self.marker.color.b = 0.0
        self.marker.color.a = 1.0
```

```
timer period = 0.1 #seconds
       self.timer = self.create_timer(timer_period, self.timer_cb)
       self.i = 0
    #Timer Callback
    def timer_cb(self):
       time = self.get clock().now().nanoseconds/1e9
       q = transforms3d.euler.euler2quat(0, 1.57, self.omega*time)
       self.marker.header.stamp = self.get clock().now().to msg()
        self.marker.pose.position.x = self.intial pos x + 0.5*np.sin(self.omega*time)
       self.marker.pose.position.y = self.intial_pos_y + 0.5*np.cos(self.omega*time)
        self.marker.pose.position.z = self.intial_pos_z
       self.marker.pose.orientation.x = q[1]
       self.marker.pose.orientation.y = q[2]
        self.marker.pose.orientation.z = q[3]
        self.marker.pose.orientation.w = q[0]
        self.publisher.publish(self.marker)
def main(args=None):
    rclpy.init(args=args)
    node = MarkersPublisher()
    try:
       rclpy.spin(node)
    except KeyboardInterrupt:
    finally:
        if rclpy.ok(): # Ensure shutdown is only called once
           rclpy.shutdown()
       node.destroy_node()
if name == ' main ':
   main()
```





• Compile the program

cd ~/<YOUR_WS>

colcon build

source install/setup.bash

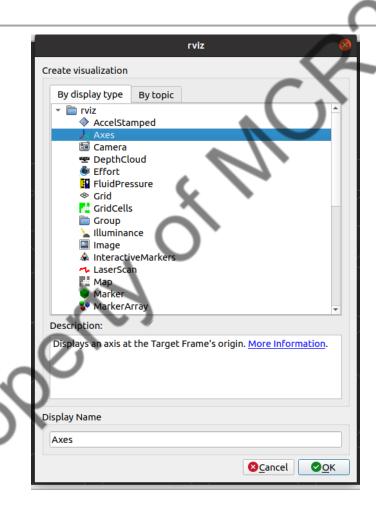
Run the node

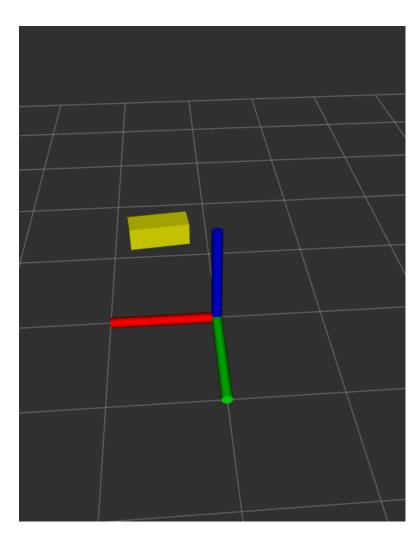
ros2 run markers markers

• Start RViz

ros2 run rviz2 rviz2

- Add the marker
 - Press Add
 - >>By topic>>/marker>> marker
- · Change the fixed frame on top of RViz to "map"
- Visualise the Fixed Frame by adding "Axes" from the "Add" Menu





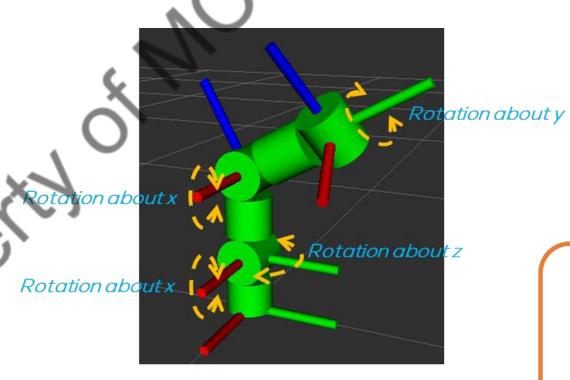


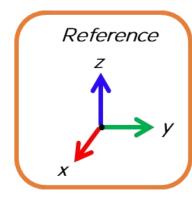
Markers and Transforms



Scale

- One of the best practices in ROS is to attach markers to frames of reference at their origin.
- The movement of the markers should be performed by the frames of reference rather than by the marker itself.
- In other words, the frame must move while the marker is attached to its centre.
- In the previous example the marker was moving around a frame of reference (not recoomended), better to declare a frame, move the frame and keep the marker attached to its origin.





Activity 2

Multiple Markers

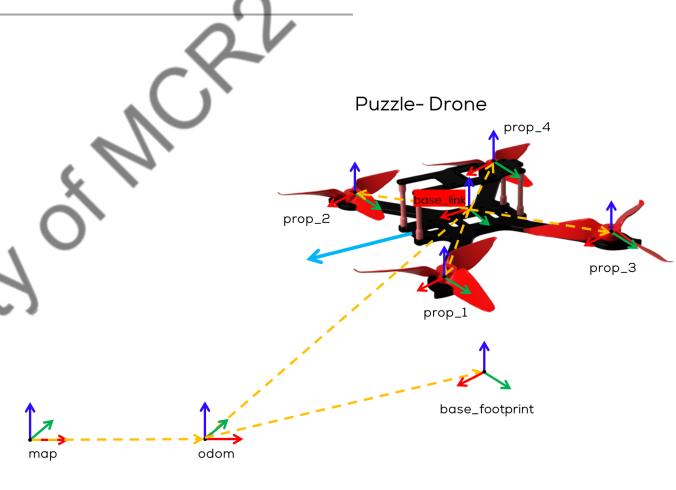


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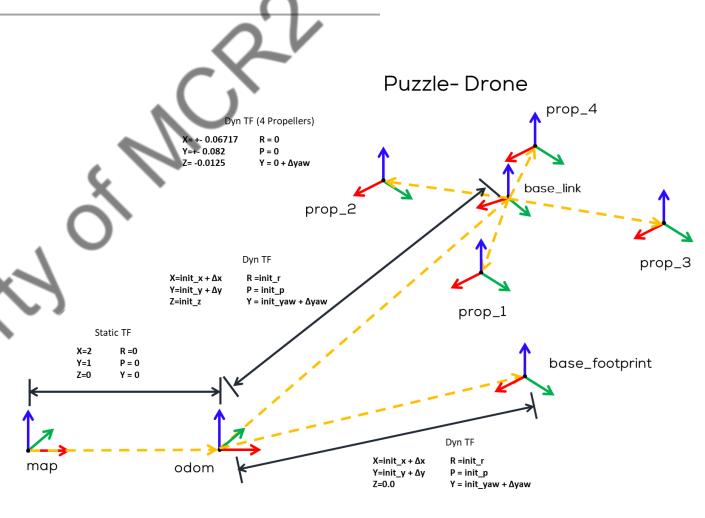
- In this activity a simple Puzzle Drone will be modelled.
- To decrease the complexity and decrease computational power, only the basic parts od the Puzzle Drone will be modelled (excl. motors, cables, PCB, etc.)
- The transforms will be set up as follows.
- The markers will be attached to each one of the transforms.
- For this case, a "mesh" type marker will be used.







- The following coordinates will be used to define the Drone as Transforms.
- Once the transforms are defined, the markers will be set up to lay on top of the transforms.
- The user should manipulate/control the transforms only, not the Markers.
- For this exercise, the basic on how to define transforms and markers will be shown.
- For this activity, the full code is on GitHub (too long to be on a ppt.)







• Make a new node called "PuzzleDrone.py" inside the "markers" package developed previously.

```
$ touch ~/<YOUR_WS>/src/markers/markers/PuzzleDrone.py
```

• Make a launch file called "puzzledrone_launch.py"

```
$ mkdir ~/<YOUR_WS>/src/markers/launch
$ touch ~/<YOUR_WS>/src/markers/launch/puzzledrone_launch.py
```

- Give execution permission to both files
- Modify the previously created "setup.py" as follows





• Make a "meshes" directory in the package "markers"

\$ mkdir ~/<YOUR WS>/src/markers/meshes

 Download inside the folder "meshes" the three ".stl" files in GitHub.

```
base_210mm.stl
propeller_ccw_puller_5in.stl
propeller_cw_puller_5in.stl
```

- The folder tree should look as in the image
- Open the "PuzzleDrone.py"
- Type the following code (node initialisation)

```
puzzledrone_launch.py
LICENSE
      init .py
   PuzzleDrone.py
   base 210mm.stl
    propeller ccw puller 5in.stl
   propeller cw puller 5in.stl
package.xml
└─ markers
 config.rviz
setup.cfg
setup.py
   test_copyright.py
   test_flake8.py
   test_pep257.py
```





```
import rclpy
from rclpy.node import Node
from tf2_ros import TransformBroadcaster
from geometry_msgs.msg import TransformStamped
from visualization_msgs.msg import Marker
import transforms3d
import numpy as np
class DronePublisher(Node):
   def init (self):
       super(). init ('frame publisher')
       #Drone Initial Pose
       self.intial_pos_x = 1.0
       self.intial pos y = 1.0
       self.intial pos z = 1.0
       self.intial_pos_yaw = np.pi/2
       self.intial pos pitch = 0.0
       self.intial_pos_roll = 0.0
       #Angular velocity for the pose change and propellers
       self.omega = 0.5
       self.omega prop = 100.0
       #Define Transformations
       self.define TF()
       #Define Markers
       self.define markers()
```

```
#Create Transform Boradcasters
        #Create Markers Publishers
        #Create a Timer
        timer period = 0.01 #seconds
        self.timer = self.create_timer(timer_period, self.timer_cb)
   #Timer Callback
    def timer cb(self):
        #Callback to be filled
    def define markers(self):
        #Initialise the markers here
   def define TF(self):
        #Create Trasnform Messages here
def main(args=None):
   rclpy.init(args=args)
   node = DronePublisher()
    try:
        rclpy.spin(node)
    except KeyboardInterrupt:
    finally:
        if rclpy.ok(): # Ensure shutdown is only called once
            rclpy.shutdown()
        node.destroy node()
if name == ' main ':
    main()
```

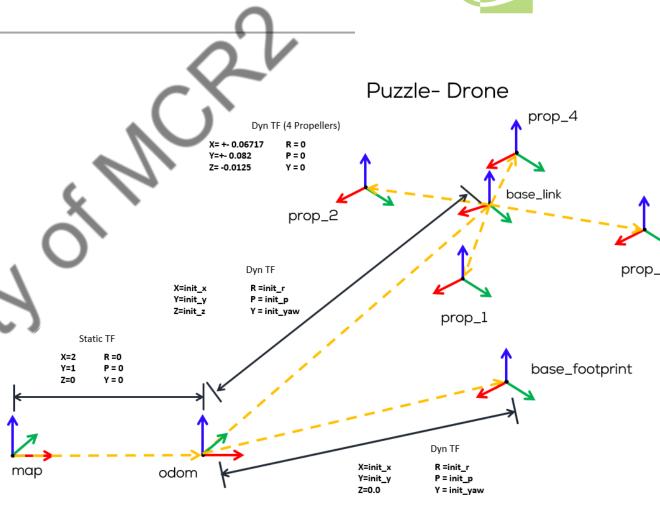


Transforms



- Each transform will be declared as follows
- All transforms will be defined inside the function "define TF"

```
def define TF(self):
    #Create Trasnform Messages
    self.base_footprint_tf = TransformStamped()
    self.base footprint tf.header.stamp = self.get clock().now().to msg()
    self.base footprint tf.header.frame id = 'odom'
    self.base footprint tf.child frame id = 'base footprint'
    self.base_footprint_tf.transform.translation.x = self.intial_pos_x
    self.base_footprint_tf.transform.translation.y = self.intial_pos_y
    self.base footprint tf.transform.translation.z = 0.0
    q foot = transforms3d.euler.euler2quat(self.intial pos roll,
self.intial pos pitch, self.intial pos yaw)
    self.base footprint tf.transform.rotation.x = q foot[1]
    self.base_footprint_tf.transform.rotation.y = q_foot[2]
    self.base footprint tf.transform.rotation.z = q foot[3]
    self.base_footprint_tf.transform.rotation.w = q_foot[0]
... #Define the rest of the transforms
```

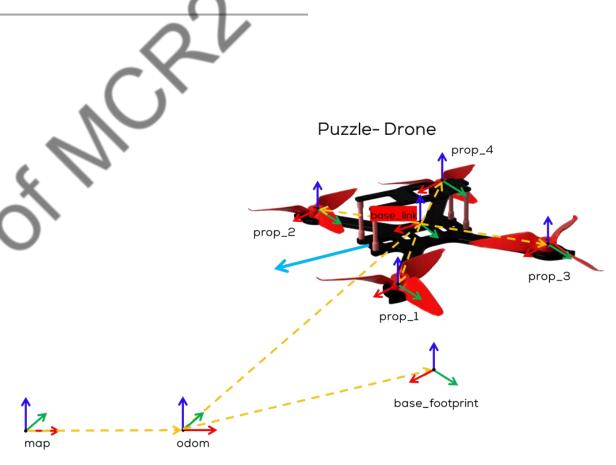






- The same as with Transforms, the markers must be defined.
- Each marker will be related to a frame and to a mesh (in this case simple marker will not be used)

			- (-
Marker	П	Frame/link to att	ach Mesh to attach
base		base_link	base_210mm.stl
prop1		prop_1	<pre>propeller_ccw_puller_5in.stl</pre>
prop2		prop_2	propeller_cw_puller_5in.stl
prop3		prop_3	<pre>propeller_ccw_puller_5in.stl</pre>
prop4		prop_4	<pre>propeller_cw_puller_5in.stl</pre>







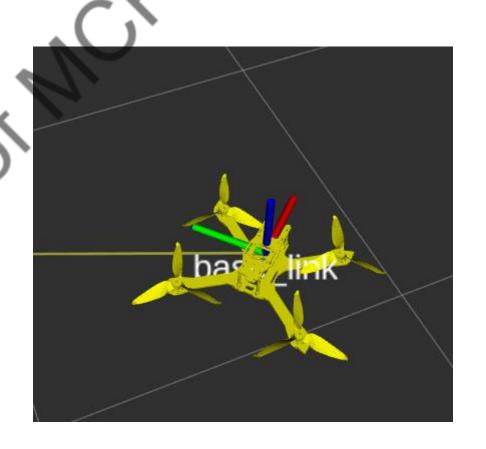
```
def define markers(self):
    #initialise the marker
    self.base = Marker()
    self.base.header.frame id = "base link"
    self.base.header.stamp = self.get clock().now().to msg()
    self.base.id = 0
    self.base.type = Marker.MESH RESOURCE
    self.base.mesh resource = "package://markers/meshes/base 210mm.stl"
    self.base.action = Marker.ADD
    self.base.pose.position.x = 0.0
    self.base.pose.position.y = 0.0
    self.base.pose.position.z = -0.0205
    q base marker = transforms3d.euler.euler2quat(1.57, 0.0, 1.57)
    self.base.pose.orientation.x = q base marker[1]
    self.base.pose.orientation.y = q base marker[2]
    self.base.pose.orientation.z = q base marker[3]
    self.base.pose.orientation.w = q base marker[0]
    self.base.scale.x = 1.0
    self.base.scale.y = 1.0
    self.base.scale.z = 1.0
    self.base.color.r = 1.0
    self.base.color.g = 1.0
    self.base.color.b = 0.0
    self.base.color.a = 1.0
... #Define the rest of the Markers
```

- Some markers requires a small adjustment,
 because the coordinate frame of the .stl file is
 not the same as the coordinate frame in ROS.
- In the example the position and orientations of the markers changed to make the coordinate of the .stl to match with the one defined by ROS standards.





- Update the dynamic transforms and the time stamp of the markers.
- The "TF's" must be updated inside the timer callback.
- For the "markers" only the timestamp must be updated, since they are fixed to a Frame.
- The user must always control the Frames, not the markers.
- If using meshes, the tessellation in the stl files must be as low quality as possible to save computing power for other ROS Tasks (This is just to visualise!)







```
import rclpy
from rclpy.node import Node
from tf2 ros import TransformBroadcaster
from geometry msgs.msg import TransformStamped
from visualization msgs.msg import Marker
import transforms3d
import numpy as np
class DronePublisher(Node):
   def init (self):
        super(). init ('frame publisher')
        #Drone Initial Pose
        self.intial pos x = 1.0
        self.intial pos y = 1.0
        self.intial pos z = 1.0
        self.intial pos yaw = np.pi/2
        self.intial pos pitch = 0.0
        self.intial pos roll = 0.0
        #Angular velocity for the pose change and propellers
        self.omega = 0.5
        self.omega prop = 100.0
        #Define Transformations
        self.define TF()
        #Define Markers
        self.define_markers()
        #Create Transform Boradcasters
        self.tf br base = TransformBroadcaster(self)
        ... #Define the other broadcasters for each transform
```

```
#Create Markers Publishers
        self.base marker pub = self.create publisher(Marker, '/base marker', 10)
        ... #Define the other publishers for each marker
        #Create a Timer
        timer period = 0.01 #seconds
        self.timer = self.create timer(timer period, self.timer cb)
    #Timer Callback
    def timer cb(self):
        time = self.get clock().now().nanoseconds/1e9
        #Update the time stamp of each marker
        self.base.header.stamp = self.get clock().now().to msg()
        ... #Update the time stamp of th other markers
        #Update the Transforms
        self.base link tf.header.stamp = self.get clock().now().to msg()
        self.base link tf.transform.translation.x = self.intial pos x + 0.5*np.cos(self.omega*time)
        self.base_link_tf.transform.translation.y = self.intial_pos y + 0.5*np.sin(self.omega*time)
        self.base link tf.transform.translation.z = self.intial pos z
        q = transforms3d.euler.euler2quat(self.intial pos roll, self.intial pos pitch,
self.intial_pos_yaw+self.omega*time)
        self.base link tf.transform.rotation.x = q[1]
        self.base link tf.transform.rotation.y = q[2]
        self.base link tf.transform.rotation.z = q[3]
        self.base link tf.transform.rotation.w = q[0]
        self.tf_br_base.sendTransform(self.base_link_tf)
        ... #Broadcast the other TF's
        self.base marker pub.publish(self.base)
        ... #Publish the Other Markers
```





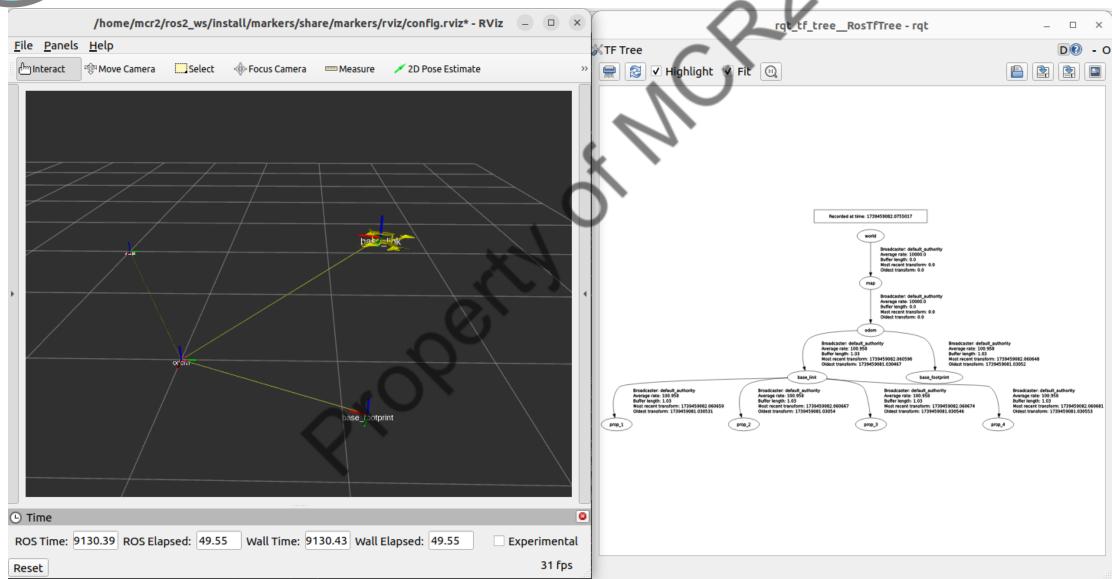
- Open the launch file previously done.
- Define two static transforms
 - world -> map (same pose)
 - map -> odom [x= 2, y=1, z=-0.0, r=0, p=0.0, yaw=0]

- Add the "PuzzleDrone" node to the launch file.
- You can add RVIZ and TF_Tree to verify the transforms.
- Build the package
- Launch the package
- Add the TF's to RVI7 and the Markers



Results





Thank you



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