

ROS Project

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Robotic platform

I chose to use a **panda robot** for my project because I found a step by step **tutorial** about **moveit** which was using this platform. My choice for the platform turned out not to be good because the tutorial was quite old, the git repositories that it was referencing changed and I struggled a lot to make some things work.

Important resources

Learning materials.

- (1) **ros basics**
- (2) **moveit tutorial**
- (3) **panda programming guide**

Repository links.

- (1) **moveit msgs**
- (2) **moveit resources**
- (3) **geometric shapes**
- (4) **srdfdom**
- (5) **moveit**
- (6) **rviz visual tools**
- (7) **moveit visual tools**
- (8) **moveit tutorials**
- (9) **panda moveit config**

Task description

Short description.

I have a panel of 8 switches. The robot must open or close some of the switches. Which switches are opened/closed and the order in which they are switched can be configured by modifying a text file.

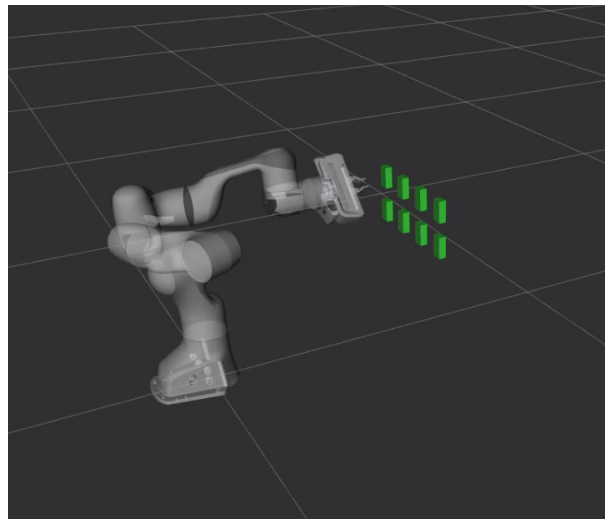
Detailed description.

The program will open a file that I can edit beforehand by writing into it predefined commands like this:

1: orders.txt

```
1 switch 2 up
2 switch 3 up
3 switch 1 up
4 switch 4 up
5 switch 1 down
6 switch 8 up
7 switch 1 up
8 switch 4 down
```

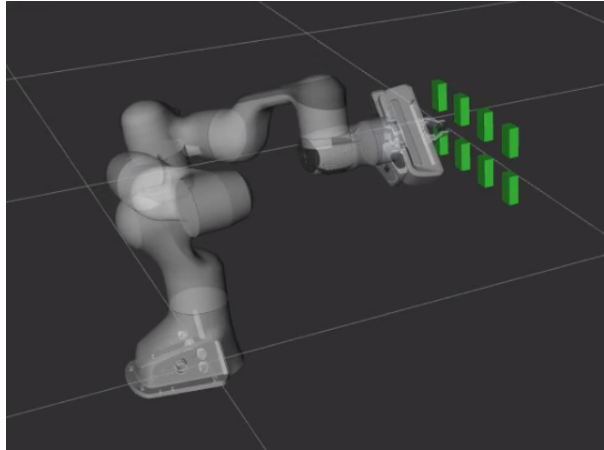
The text file is read line by line. Each command is being processed into a robot command and a set of coordinates for the robot.



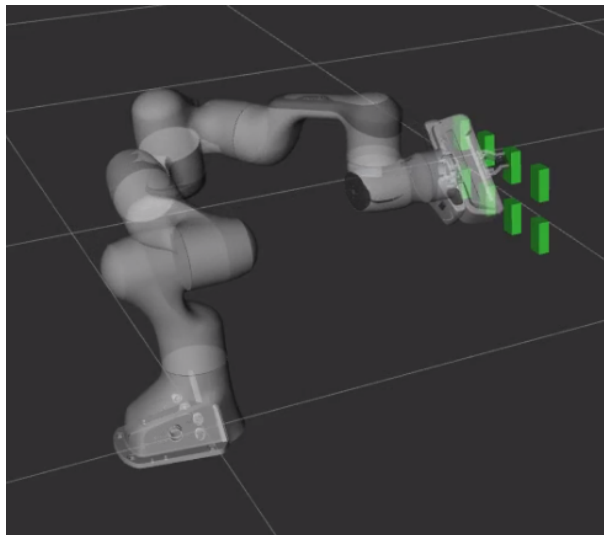
The switches are ordered as:

switch 4	switch 3	switch 2	switch 1
switch 8	switch 7	switch 6	switch 5

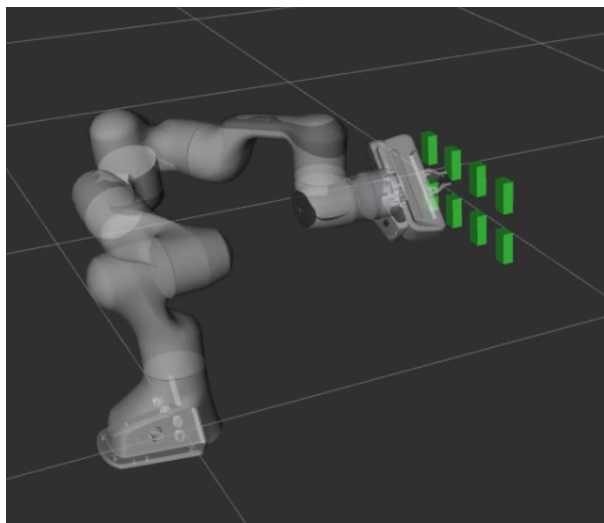
The robot moves in front of the switch with its end-effector perpendicular to the switch. The end-effector is also brought to the upper-half of the switch level if we want to open it or at the lower-half of the switch level if we want to close it. If we want to close a switch that is already closed or open one that is already opened the robot will pass to the next command.



After the robot is positioned in front of the switch it will move forward, touching the switch.



Then it will move back, ready for the next command.



And the cycle repeats for the next switch.

Performance description

It is hard to quantify the performance of the system because the number of commands is configurable.

I only control the position and orientation of the end-effector so the movement of the joints is inefficient and takes a longer time to perform the tasks.

Depending on how close the resting position is to the next switch, a switching can be performed somewhere between 6 and 30 seconds. By testing I approximate the average time it takes the robot to flip a switch as being 15 seconds.

The process can be improved by controlling the movement of the joints between the resting phase and the next switch.

The collisions are not implemented in this simulation so there is a possibility that the robot can collide with itself or the floor.

Video

panda robot simulation of flipping switches

Code

2: robot.py

```

1  #!/usr/bin/env python
2  '''
3  The above line is must for any python script you write.
4  Infact this line itself is making your script, a python file in linux.
5  '''
6  from __future__ import print_function
7  from six.moves import input
8
9  import sys
10 import copy
11 import rospy
12 import moveit_commander
13 import moveit_msgs.msg
14 import geometry_msgs.msg
15
16 try:
17     from math import pi, tau, dist, fabs, cos
18 except: # For Python 2 compatibility
19     from math import pi, fabs, cos, sqrt
20
21     tau = 2.0 * pi
22
23     def dist(p, q):
24         return sqrt(sum((p_i - q_i) ** 2.0 for p_i, q_i in zip(p, q)))
25
26
27 from std_msgs.msg import String
28 from moveit_commander.conversions import pose_to_list
29
30 moveit_commander.roscpp_initialize(sys.argv)
31 rospy.init_node("move_group_python_interface", anonymous=True)
32
33 robot = moveit_commander.RobotCommander()
```

```

34 scene = moveit_commander.PlanningSceneInterface()
35 move_group = moveit_commander.MoveGroupCommander("panda_arm")
36 group = moveit_commander.MoveGroupCommander("panda_hand")
37
38 display_trajectory_publisher = rospy.Publisher(
39     "/move_group/display_planned_path",
40     moveit_msgs.msg.DisplayTrajectory,
41     queue_size=20,
42 )
43
44 coordinates = [[0.6, -0.15, 0.4], [0.6, -0.05, 0.4], [0.6, 0.05, 0.4], [0.6, 0.15, 0.4],
45               [0.6, -0.15, 0.3], [0.6, -0.05, 0.3], [0.6, 0.05, 0.3], [0.6, 0.15, 0.3]]
46 activated = [False, False, False, False, False, False, False, False]
47 robot_movement = 0
48 end_position = [0, 0, 0]
49
50 switch1_pose = geometry_msgs.msg.PoseStamped()
51 switch1_pose.header.frame_id = "world"
52 switch1_pose.pose.position.x = coordinates[0][0]
53 switch1_pose.pose.position.y = coordinates[0][1]
54 switch1_pose.pose.position.z = coordinates[0][2]
55 switch1_name = "switch1"
56 scene.add_box(switch1_name, switch1_pose, size=(0.02, 0.03, 0.06))
57
58 switch2_pose = geometry_msgs.msg.PoseStamped()
59 switch2_pose.header.frame_id = "world"
60 switch2_pose.pose.position.x = coordinates[1][0]
61 switch2_pose.pose.position.y = coordinates[1][1]
62 switch2_pose.pose.position.z = coordinates[1][2]
63 switch2_name = "switch2"
64 scene.add_box(switch2_name, switch2_pose, size=(0.02, 0.03, 0.06))
65
66 switch3_pose = geometry_msgs.msg.PoseStamped()
67 switch3_pose.header.frame_id = "world"
68 switch3_pose.pose.position.x = coordinates[2][0]
69 switch3_pose.pose.position.y = coordinates[2][1]
70 switch3_pose.pose.position.z = coordinates[2][2]
71 switch3_name = "switch3"
72 scene.add_box(switch3_name, switch3_pose, size=(0.02, 0.03, 0.06))
73
74 switch4_pose = geometry_msgs.msg.PoseStamped()
75 switch4_pose.header.frame_id = "world"
76 switch4_pose.pose.position.x = coordinates[3][0]
77 switch4_pose.pose.position.y = coordinates[3][1]
78 switch4_pose.pose.position.z = coordinates[3][2]
79 switch4_name = "switch4"
80 scene.add_box(switch4_name, switch4_pose, size=(0.02, 0.03, 0.06))
81
82 switch5_pose = geometry_msgs.msg.PoseStamped()
83 switch5_pose.header.frame_id = "world"
84 switch5_pose.pose.position.x = coordinates[4][0]
85 switch5_pose.pose.position.y = coordinates[4][1]
86 switch5_pose.pose.position.z = coordinates[4][2]
87 switch5_name = "switch5"
88 scene.add_box(switch5_name, switch5_pose, size=(0.02, 0.03, 0.06))
89
90 switch6_pose = geometry_msgs.msg.PoseStamped()
91 switch6_pose.header.frame_id = "world"
92 switch6_pose.pose.position.x = coordinates[5][0]
93 switch6_pose.pose.position.y = coordinates[5][1]
94 switch6_pose.pose.position.z = coordinates[5][2]
95 switch6_name = "switch6"
96 scene.add_box(switch6_name, switch6_pose, size=(0.02, 0.03, 0.06))
97
98 switch7_pose = geometry_msgs.msg.PoseStamped()
99 switch7_pose.header.frame_id = "world"
100 switch7_pose.pose.position.x = coordinates[6][0]
101 switch7_pose.pose.position.y = coordinates[6][1]
102 switch7_pose.pose.position.z = coordinates[6][2]
103 switch7_name = "switch7"
104 scene.add_box(switch7_name, switch7_pose, size=(0.02, 0.03, 0.06))
105
106 switch8_pose = geometry_msgs.msg.PoseStamped()

```

```

107 switch8_pose.header.frame_id = "world"
108 switch8_pose.pose.position.x = coordinates[7][0]
109 switch8_pose.pose.position.y = coordinates[7][1]
110 switch8_pose.pose.position.z = coordinates[7][2]
111 switch8_name = "switch8"
112 scene.add_box(switch8_name, switch8_pose, size=(0.02, 0.03, 0.06))
113
114 with open('src/panda_moveit_config/scripts/orders.txt') as f:
115     for line in f:
116         commands = line.split()
117         if commands[0] == 'switch':
118             if commands[1] == '1':
119                 if (commands[2] == 'up') and (not activated[0]):
120                     activated[0] = not activated[0]
121                     end_position = [coordinates[0][0], coordinates[0][1], coordinates[0][2]+0.01]
122                     robot_movement = 1
123                 elif (commands[2] == 'down') and (activated[0]):
124                     activated[0] = not activated[0]
125                     end_position = [coordinates[0][0], coordinates[0][1], coordinates[0][2]-0.01]
126                     robot_movement = 1
127             elif commands[1] == '2':
128                 if (commands[2] == 'up') and (not activated[1]):
129                     activated[1] = not activated[1]
130                     end_position = [coordinates[1][0], coordinates[1][1], coordinates[1][2]+0.01]
131                     robot_movement = 1
132                 elif (commands[2] == 'down') and (activated[1]):
133                     activated[1] = not activated[1]
134                     end_position = [coordinates[1][0], coordinates[1][1], coordinates[1][2]-0.01]
135                     robot_movement = 1
136             elif commands[1] == '3':
137                 if (commands[2] == 'up') and (not activated[2]):
138                     activated[2] = not activated[2]
139                     end_position = [coordinates[2][0], coordinates[2][1], coordinates[2][2]+0.01]
140                     robot_movement = 1
141                 elif (commands[2] == 'down') and (activated[2]):
142                     activated[2] = not activated[2]
143                     end_position = [coordinates[2][0], coordinates[2][1], coordinates[2][2]-0.01]
144                     robot_movement = 1
145             elif commands[1] == '4':
146                 if (commands[2] == 'up') and (not activated[3]):
147                     activated[3] = not activated[3]
148                     end_position = [coordinates[3][0], coordinates[3][1], coordinates[3][2]+0.01]
149                     robot_movement = 1
150                 elif (commands[2] == 'down') and (activated[3]):
151                     activated[3] = not activated[3]
152                     end_position = [coordinates[3][0], coordinates[3][1], coordinates[3][2]-0.01]
153                     robot_movement = 1
154             elif commands[1] == '5':
155                 if (commands[2] == 'up') and (not activated[4]):
156                     activated[4] = not activated[4]
157                     end_position = [coordinates[4][0], coordinates[4][1], coordinates[4][2]+0.01]
158                     robot_movement = 1
159                 elif (commands[2] == 'down') and (activated[4]):
160                     activated[4] = not activated[4]
161                     end_position = [coordinates[4][0], coordinates[4][1], coordinates[4][2]-0.01]
162                     robot_movement = 1
163             elif commands[1] == '6':
164                 if (commands[2] == 'up') and (not activated[5]):
165                     activated[5] = not activated[5]
166                     end_position = [coordinates[5][0], coordinates[5][1], coordinates[5][2]+0.01]
167                     robot_movement = 1
168                 elif (commands[2] == 'down') and (activated[5]):
169                     activated[5] = not activated[5]
170                     end_position = [coordinates[5][0], coordinates[5][1], coordinates[5][2]-0.01]
171                     robot_movement = 1
172             elif commands[1] == '7':
173                 if (commands[2] == 'up') and (not activated[6]):
174                     activated[6] = not activated[6]
175                     end_position = [coordinates[6][0], coordinates[6][1], coordinates[6][2]+0.01]
176                     robot_movement = 1
177                 elif (commands[2] == 'down') and (activated[6]):
178                     activated[6] = not activated[6]
179                     end_position = [coordinates[6][0], coordinates[6][1], coordinates[6][2]-0.01]

```

```

180         robot_movement = 1
181     elif commands[1] == '8':
182         if (commands[2] == 'up') and (not activated[7]):
183             activated[7] = not activated[7]
184             end_position = [coordinates[7][0], coordinates[7][1], coordinates[7][2]+0.01]
185             robot_movement = 1
186         elif (commands[2] == 'down') and (activated[7]):
187             activated[7] = not activated[7]
188             end_position = [coordinates[7][0], coordinates[7][1], coordinates[7][2]-0.01]
189             robot_movement = 1
190     elif commands[0] == 'socket':
191         if commands[1] == 'plug':
192             if commands[2] == 'in':
193                 rospy.loginfo("%s", commands)
194                 robot_movement = 2
195             elif commands[2] == 'out':
196                 rospy.loginfo("%s", commands)
197                 robot_movement = 2
198     if (robot_movement):
199         if robot_movement == 1:
200             joint_goal = group.get_current_joint_values()
201             joint_goal[0] = 0.00
202             joint_goal[1] = 0.00
203             group.go(joint_goal, wait=True)
204             group.stop()
205             pose_goal = geometry_msgs.msg.Pose()
206             pose_goal.position.x = end_position[0]-0.2
207             pose_goal.position.y = end_position[1]
208             pose_goal.position.z = end_position[2]
209             pose_goal.orientation.x = 0.5
210             pose_goal.orientation.y = -0.5
211             pose_goal.orientation.z = 0.5
212             pose_goal.orientation.w = -0.5
213             move_group.set_pose_target(pose_goal)
214             success = move_group.go(wait=True)
215             move_group.stop()
216             move_group.clear_pose_targets()
217             waypoints = []
218             pose_goal = move_group.get_current_pose().pose
219             pose_goal.position.x += 0.2
220             waypoints.append(copy.deepcopy(pose_goal))
221             (plan, fraction) = move_group.compute_cartesian_path(
222                 waypoints, 0.001, 0.0 # waypoints to follow # eef_step
223             )
224             display_trajectory = moveit_msgs.msg.DisplayTrajectory()
225             display_trajectory.trajectory_start = robot.get_current_state()
226             display_trajectory.trajectory.append(plan)
227             move_group.execute(plan, wait=True)
228             move_group.stop()
229             move_group.clear_pose_targets()
230             waypoints = []
231             pose_goal = move_group.get_current_pose().pose
232             pose_goal.position.x -= 0.05
233             waypoints.append(copy.deepcopy(pose_goal))
234             (plan, fraction) = move_group.compute_cartesian_path(
235                 waypoints, 0.001, 0.0 # waypoints to follow # eef_step
236             )
237             display_trajectory = moveit_msgs.msg.DisplayTrajectory()
238             display_trajectory.trajectory_start = robot.get_current_state()
239             display_trajectory.trajectory.append(plan)
240             move_group.execute(plan, wait=True)
241             move_group.stop()
242             move_group.clear_pose_targets()
243         robot_movement = 0
244
245     scene.remove_world_object(switch1_name)
246     scene.remove_world_object(switch2_name)
247     scene.remove_world_object(switch3_name)
248     scene.remove_world_object(switch4_name)
249     scene.remove_world_object(switch5_name)
250     scene.remove_world_object(switch6_name)
251     scene.remove_world_object(switch7_name)
252     scene.remove_world_object(switch8_name)

```