ECE 470 Fall 2021 Experiment #2

The Tower of Hanoi with ROS

Code for Lab is in Appendix

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1. Introduction

Explain the background of the lab. Briefly explain the objective of the lab i.e. the goal and rules of ToH. Images would greatly aid in this explanation.

The Towers of Hanoi (ToH). is a centuries old puzzle usually played with disks and rods, but all that was present for this lab were distinctly colored bricks. The objective of the ToH is to move a stack of disks from one rod to another, or in this case, move a stack of bricks from one location to another. In the rules, the player may only move a smaller disk onto a larger disk, but never move a larger disk onto a smaller disk. In this case, the robot can only move the RED onto the YELLOW, and the YELLOW onto the GREEN. Another rule claims that the disks are only allowed to be stacked in three locations. With the restrictions of this lab, the bricks may only touch the table in three locations. Only one brick can be moved at a time.

Optimal Number of Moves. It is claimed that the amount of optimal moves, labeled m, needed to move a stack of n bricks from one location to another has been mathematically calculated to by $m = 2^n - 1$. In this lab, the robot is assigned to move a stack of 3 bricks. This means that the minimal number of movements, m, should ideally be 7.

Objective. The goal of this lab is to generate a program that will communicate back and forth with the UR3 to solve this particular puzzle. The user will be able to input the starting and final positions of the towers, and the robot will be expected to solve the puzzle with the help of callback functions.

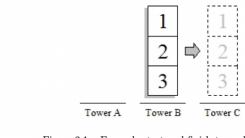
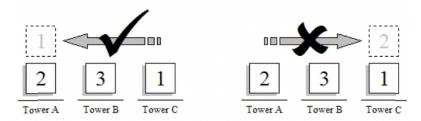


Figure 2.1: Example start and finish tower locations.



What was the focus of this lab? (Hint: ROS and implementing feedback)

Lab 1 introduced the concept of ToH, while Lab 2 introduced the implementation of the ROS and Python language to program the robot to complete the puzzle. The focus of this lab is to write a program using ROS and Python to mimic the maneuvers of Lab 1, and the following are the major components that are introduced:

ROS in Python Programming. This lab introduces several components of ROS, including robot-to-program communication, robot-to-user communication, Linux/ROS commands, creating a workspace, and running a node, which is explained in the following sections.

Implementing Feedback. An important part of programming a robot is implementing sensor feedback and user error feedback. In many ways, implementing feedback can provide the robot a bridge to communicate with the program and the program a bridge to communicate with the user. Whether it be by if-print statements or by rospy.loginfo(), implementing feedback provides an interface between what the robots's state is and what the user expects the robot to do. This topic goes more in depth in the following sections.

2. Method

Explain how you did it

Lab 1 introduced the ToH without the use of Robotic Operating System(ROS) and Python Programming. Our group recorded the joint angles that would position the robotic arm into the 10 waypoints used for the ToH. Each of these positions can be labeled using a 3x3 array positions [x] [y], given that x = 0 and y = 0 would locate the position of the robotic arm to the bottom left brick waypoint, while x = 2 and y = 2 would locate the position to the top right waypoint. Another position, labeled as *central* and located above the middle tower, was used as a position for the robot to move between picking up a brick and placing it into a different position while avoiding collision.

For Lab 2, our group implemented the following algorithm in the main() function to allow the user to input any set of 2 locations (starting and final) as long as they are not the same location.

While (not input done)

Prompt user to enter start location

```
If (start != 0) AND (start == 1 or 2 or 3), set start location
Else terminate
```

Prompt user to enter final location

```
If (final != 0) AND (final != start), set final location
Else terminate
```

Program sets buffer, the location that is not start or final

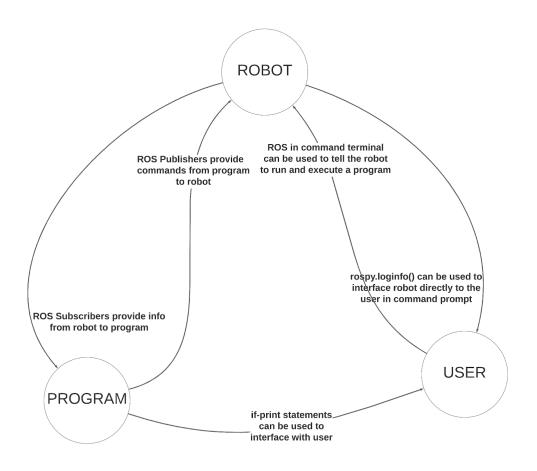
Begin to move blocks

First move block, second move block,, seventh move block

What is ROS and how does it work?

Robotic Operating Systems (ROS) is a framework that allows ROS developers to create programs for robots, without physically touching the robot. ROS particularly works on Linux Ubuntu and Linux Debian, not on Windows, which is why the VMWare used in this class is a necessary part in ROS program development.

For this lab, we learn how the Robot provides values to the program via Subscribers, the Program provides commands to the robot via Publishers, the Robot provides rospy.loginfo() to the user about its state, the User provides instructions to the robot to run, and the User and Program interface with each other by providing inputs and outputting states. This diagram below depicts the explanation above



How did you use the ROS commands (i.e. rostopic list, rostopic info, etc.) to complete your task?

ROS in Command Terminal. There are several steps that are necessary to understand which topics can be used by the program to subscribe to and which messages can be used by the program in a callback function.

ROS commands in command terminal	
rostopic list	Used to find what topics you would like to subscribe to
rostopic info	Used to describe topic you would like to subscribe to
rosmsg list	Used to find message to be outputted in callback function
rosmsg info	Used to describe message to be outputted in callback function
roslaunch ur3_driver ur3_driver.launch	Used in series in order to run the executable file, in this
rosrun lab2pkg_py lab2_exec.py	case, the lab3_exec.py. This step is more in depth in the next section

ROS in Programs. There are several steps that are necessary to initializing Publishers (commands from program to robot) and Subscribers (values from robot to the program)

ROS commands in programs	
<pre># Initialize ROS node rospy.init_node('lab2node')</pre>	In main(), we want to start the code with an initialization of the node
<pre># Initialize publisher for ur3/command pub_command = rospy.Publisher('ur3/command', command, queue_size=10)</pre>	In main(), we want to initialize a PUBLISHER, which will be used to command the robot
<pre># Initialize subscriber to ur3/position sub_position = rospy.Subscriber('ur3/position',position,position_callback)</pre>	In main(), we want to initialize a SUBSCRIBER, which will be used to read POSITION values from the robot
<pre># Initialize subscriber to ur3/gripper sub_gripped = rospy.Subscriber('ur3/grip per_input',gripper_input,gripped_callback)</pre>	In main(), we want to initialize a SUBSCRIBER, which will be used to read GRIPPER values from the robot
rospy.loginfo	Prints a message to the command prompt.

ROS in Command Terminal. Running a node, lab2_exec.py. There are several steps that are necessary to remember when running the node that we built. Here is a set of commands that we used and guided comments

```
Cd ~
Cd catkin_rbalita2/src/lab2andDrivers // cd to main
Cd catkin_rbalita2/src/lab2andDrivers // direct to lab folder

Rosrun lab2pkg_py lab2_exec.py
Rosrun lab2pkg_py lab2_exec.py --simulator True
Rosrun lab2pkg_py lab2_exec.py --simulator False // Run it on Hardware
```

How did you implement feedback?

Feedback comes in several forms. Error feedback(software) and Sensor feedback (robot)

Sensor Feedback came in several forms for this lab. (ROBOT -> PROGRAM)

sub gripped = rospy.Subscriber('ur3/gripper input', gripper input, gripped callback)

1. Suction Feedback. This ROS topic callback function allows us to know if the gripper is "gripping". It provides a state in which we can later use to tell the robot to either continue with the instructions or HALT because there is no suction to a brick being applied

ROS Gripper Callback Function. allows us to get the state of the suction cup (when published)

2. Position Feedback. This position callback allows us to set the program to have access to the position of the robot. By communicating with the robot about its position, we will be able to set the current and next positions of the robot. In particular, we set the theta values and the current position values both from the msg being given from the robot.

ROS Position Callback Function. allows us to get the position of the robot (when published)

```
def position_callback(msg):
Set thetas[] array to the msg.position[]  # gathers info from robot msg
Set current_position[]array to the thetas[]  # sets prog variables to values attained
Set current_position_set = True  # assuming all functions go well,
```

ROS Gripper Callback Function in main(), initialized as a subscriber

sub position = rospy.Subscriber('ur3/position', position, position callback)

Error Feedback came in several forms for this lab. (PROGRAM -> USER)

1. If the user's inputs for the starting and ending location of the towers were the same, then the program will display an error message saying "Overlap of start and end"

Same start and end location error. allows us to halt the system if no brick is present

```
# . . . . code for main()
while(not input_done):
start_loc = raw_input("Enter the Start Location <Either 1 2 3 or 0 to quit> ")
if(int(start_loc) == 1 or int(start_loc) == 2 or int(start_loc) == 3):
    input_done = 1
        start_loc = int(start_loc)
elif (int(start_loc) == 0):
    print("Quitting...")
    sys.exit()

# . . . . code for main()

while(not input_done):
end_loc = raw_input("Enter the End Location <Either 1 2 3 or 0 to quit>")
if(int(end_loc) == start_loc):
    print("Overlap with the Start Location; Please choose another End Location \n\n")
elif((int(end_loc) == 1 or int(end_loc) == 2 or int(end_loc) == 3) and int(end_loc) !=start_loc):
    input_done = 1
    end_loc = int(end_loc)
elif (int(end_loc) == 0):
    print("Quitting...")
    sys.exit()

# . . . . code for main()
```

2. If the robot were to move to a particular position and sense no brick is present, then the robot will halt, go back to the central waypoint, and the program will display an error message saying that "unexpected missing brick". This is done because the algorithm used to solve the 3 brick ToH works with starting and ending tower positions, so the only ways that an error with a missing brick would occur is if the brick has fallen down or the user took the brick out of the expected position.

No brick error example. allows us to halt the system if no brick is present

```
if digital_in_0 == False:
    rospy.loginfo("Block Missing; Moving back to home ...")
    move_arm(pub_cmd,loop_rate,home,4.0,4.0)
    rospy.loginfo("Ungripping")
    gripper(pub_cmd,loop_rate,suction_off)
    sys.exit()
```

3. Data and Results

Analyze the data you collected

There was no particular data that was collected for this lab experiment. The purpose of this lab was to introduce the ROS and Python programming languages through the Towers of Hanoi puzzle. The measures that were taken focused solely on getting the program to work, launching the program onto hardware, and seeing if the outcome of programming in ROS and Python created similar results to that of programming the robot the UR3 teaching pendant. By taking the input joint angles for all waypoints from Lab 1, it is expected that we can use this information when running an ROS/Python program and have the same outcome.

Running the program through simulation:

• <u>Test Passed</u>. Terminal messages indicated that the robot moved to central position, moved to moveblock_1_start, turned on suction, received suction feedback, moved to central position, moved to moveblock_1_end, turned off suction and repeated this cycle until the ToH was complete

Running the program through hardware:

- <u>Test Passed.</u> Terminal messages indicated that the robot moved to central position, moved to moveblock_1_start, turned on suction, received suction feedback, moved to central position, moved to moveblock_1_end, and turned off suction repeated this cycle until the ToH was complete
- <u>Test Passed.</u> Robot moved in real time, somewhat faster than the time when the robot was programmed on the UR3 teaching pendant. Speed was at 4.0 in program

Testing for Feedback

- <u>Test Passed.</u> User inputted the same starting and ending location of the towers. The program displayed an error message saying that "The Tower is already in final position"
- <u>Test Passed.</u> The user took the brick out of the expected position.

An error analysis and discussion of sources of error

Although all the test cases and demo procedures have been passed, there may have been small robotic arm positioning errors. This may have been a result from the recording of the joint angles in Lab 1. The errors did not result in significant deviations from our expected waypoint positions. Considering that the joint angles were recorded to the tenths of a degree, setting the joint angles in the program by rounding the values to the nearest degree may have caused the positioning of the robotic arm to deviate slightly. The errors were limited. It can be said that these small errors were truly insignificant to executing the objective of the lab.

4. Conclusion

Summarize what you did and the results of your data. Discuss what you learned from the lab

The first objective of the lab was to be introduced to the ROS and Python programming language and familiarize ourselves with how these tools can be used in both simulation and in real life hardware. The underlying and motivating objective of this Lab 2 was to recreate the Towers of Hanoi puzzle from Lab 1, but while programming the robot in ROS and Python. In particular, we learned how to use callback functions, set subscribers, set publishers, and how to utilize each of them to communicate back and forth with a robot. Overall, the things that we learned from this lab will be useful for the final project, where we will need to use similar callback functions and set similar subscribers and publishers, and to run ROS on the command terminal to run the simulation.

5. References

List of references

Buddies, Science. "The Tower of Hanoi." *Scientific American*, Scientific American, 26 Oct. 2017,https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-tower-of-hanoi/#:~:text=The%20tower %20of%20Hanoi%20.

"Ros for Beginners: What Is Ros?" *The Construct*, 10 July 2020, https://www.theconstructsim.com/what-is-ros/.

6. Appendix

Additional information if needed

Important Variables for Program thetas = [0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0] digital_in_0 = 0 analog_in_0 = 0 suction_on = True suction_off = False current_io_0 = False current_position_set = False

Implemented functions for program		
Function	Description: TODO's	
<pre>def gripped_callback(msg):</pre>	#define a topic callback function that will get the state of the suction cup	
<pre>def move_block(pub_cmd, loop_rate, start_loc, start_height, end_loc, end_height):</pre>	<pre>#define a function that will move a block in the following steps - Move to central location (central) - Move arm to first location (start_loc,</pre>	
<pre>def main():</pre>	<pre>#complete the function so that the program will take an input from the user (first and last location of the tower) and the robot will complete the task. // one may implement this by either hard coding the values for the locations OR they may implement this by realizing that locations can be relabeled as "first", "secondary", and "final" location</pre>	

```
Code for lab2 exec.py
 import argparse
 import rospkg
  import numpy as np
# Hanol tower location | Q11 = [145.76*pi/180.0, -54.86*pi/180.0, 91.51*pi/180.0, -126.67*pi/180.0, -90.23*pi/180.0, 25.62*pi/180.0] | Q12 = [145.76*pi/180.0, -49.64*pi/180.0, 93.6*pi/180.0, -133.98*pi/180.0, -90.25*pi/180.0, 25.59*pi/180.0] | Q13 = [146*pi/180.0, -44.43*pi/180.0, 94.59*pi/180.0, -140.18*pi/180.0, -90.27*pi/180.0, 25.80*pi/180.0] | Q21 = [159.46*pi/180.0, -59.52*pi/180.0, 99.74*pi/180.0, -130.25*pi/180.0, -90.21*pi/180.0, 39.36*pi/180.0] | Q22 = [159.48*pi/180.0, -53.41*pi/180.0, 100.40*pi/180.0, -137.03*pi/180.0, -90.23*pi/180.0, 39.33*pi/180.0] | Q23 = [159.49*pi/180.0, -48.12*pi/180.0, 102.67*pi/180.0, -144.58*pi/180.0, -90.25*pi/180.0, 39.32*pi/180.0] | Q31 = [171.41*pi/180.0, -57.51*pi/180.0, 96.60*pi/180.0, -129.13*pi/180.0, -90.23*pi/180.0, 51.68*pi/180.0] | Q32 = [171.75*pi/180.0, -52.35*pi/180.0, 98.58*pi/180.0, -136.27*pi/180.0, -90.25*pi/180.0, 51.68*pi/180.0] | Q32 = [171.75*pi/180.0, -52.35*pi/180.0, 98.58*pi/180.0, -136.27*pi/180.0, -90.25*pi/180.0, 51.68*pi/180.0] | Q32 = [171.75*pi/180.0, -52.35*pi/180.0, 98.58*pi/180.0, -136.27*pi/180.0, -90.25*pi/180.0, 51.68*pi/180.0] | Q32 = [171.75*pi/180.0, -52.35*pi/180.0, 98.58*pi/180.0, -136.27*pi/180.0, -90.25*pi/180.0, 51.68*pi/180.0] | Q32 = [171.75*pi/180.0, -52.35*pi/180.0, 98.58*pi/180.0, -136.27*pi/180.0, -90.25*pi/180.0, 51.68*pi/180.0] | Q32 = [171.75*pi/180.0, -52.35*pi/180.0, 98.58*pi/180.0, -136.27*pi/180.0, -90.25*pi/180.0, 51.68*pi/180.0] | Q32 = [171.75*pi/180.0, -52.35*pi/180.0, -52.35*pi/180.0, -52.35*pi/180.0] | Q32 = [171.75*pi/180.0, -52.35*pi/180.0, -52.35*pi/180.0] | Q32 = [171.75*pi/180.0, -52.35*pi/180.0, -52.35*pi/180.0] | Q32 = [171.75*pi/180.0, -52.35*pi/180.0] | Q32 = [17
Q32 = [171.75*pi/180.0, -52.35*pi/180.0, 98.58*pi/180.0, -136.27*pi/180.0, -90.25*pi/180.0, 51.61*pi/180.0]
Q33 = [171.77*pi/180.0, -46.29*pi/180.0, 99.43*pi/180.0, -143.18*pi/180.0, -90.28*pi/180.0, 51.58*pi/180.0]
 digital in 0 = 0
 current_position_set = False
 current position = copy.deepcopy(home)
```

def gripped callback(msg):

```
global analog_in_0
   analog_in_0 = msg.AIN0
   global current_position
   global current_position_set
   thetas[0] = msq.position[0]
   thetas[1] = msg.position[1]
thetas[2] = msg.position[2]
   current_position[1] = thetas[1]
current_position[2] = thetas[2]
   current_position[3] = thetas[3]
   current_position[5] = thetas[5]
def gripper(pub_cmd, loop_rate, io_0):
   global current_position
   spin count = 0
   driver_msg.io_0 = io 0
            abs(thetas[2]-driver_msg.destination[2]) < 0.0005 and \</pre>
```

```
loop rate.sleep()
       if(spin_count > SPIN_RATE*5):
def move_arm(pub_cmd, loop_rate, dest, vel, accel):
   loop_rate.sleep()
       loop rate.sleep()
       if(spin_count > SPIN_RATE*5):
   return error
def move_block(pub_cmd, loop_rate, start_loc, start_height, \
```

```
move arm(pub cmd, loop rate, Q[start loc-1][start height-1], 4.0, 4.0)
   gripper(pub_cmd,loop_rate,suction_on)
       move_arm(pub_cmd,loop_rate,home,4.0,4.0)
      gripper(pub_cmd,loop_rate,suction_off)
  rospy.loginfo("Moving to home location")
  move_arm(pub_cmd,loop_rate,home,4.0,4.0)
   rospy.loginfo("Moving to end location: " + str(end loc) + " " + str(end height))
  move arm (pub cmd, loop rate, Q[end loc-1][end height-1], 4.0, 4.0)
def main():
  sub_position = rospy.Subscriber('ur3/position', position, position callback)
           input done = 1
```

```
input done = 0
   print("Entered End Location: " + end loc + "\n")
    elif((int(end loc) == 1 or int(end loc) == 2 or int(end loc) == 3) and int(end loc) != start loc):
        input done = 1
not_gripped = False
move_arm(pub_command,loop_rate,home,4.0,4.0)
move_block(pub_command, loop_rate, start_loc, 2, buffer_loc, 3)
move_block(pub_command, loop_rate, start_loc, 3, end_loc, 3)
move_block(pub_command, loop_rate, buffer_loc, 2, start_loc, 3)
move_block(pub_command, loop_rate, buffer_loc, 3, end_loc, 2)
move block(pub command, loop_rate, start_loc, 3, end_loc, 1)
```

```
if __name__ == '__main__':
    try:
        main()
# When Ctrl+C is executed, it catches the exception
    except rospy.ROSInterruptException:
        pass
```