ROS2 SLAM implementation on Mecanum robot.

Installation process

ROS distro: foxy

Although there is now ROS on windows, I have used a Windows machine running a Linux VM for this project, and it turned out quite well.

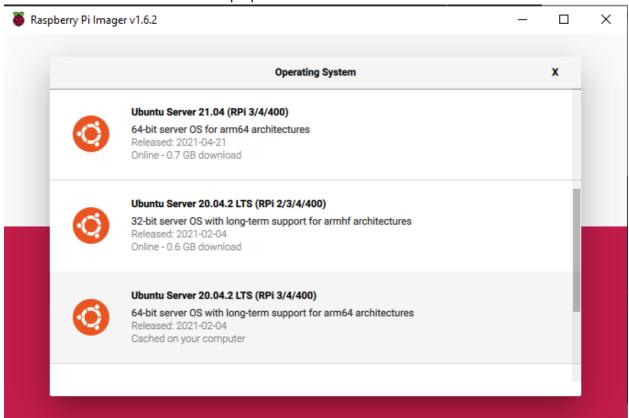
RPI 3B

- -Prepare a micro-SD >= 8Gb
- -Installing OS, Ubuntu Server 20.04.2 LTS

Raspberry Pi Imager < v.1.6.2> at the time of writing



CHOOSE STORAGE -> {your micro-SD drive}
CHOOSE OS -> Other General-purpose OS -> ubuntu -> Ubuntu Server 20.04.2 LTS — 64bit



WRITE! *This will erase content in the SD*

-Configure RPi network

The default network configuration is stored in the file "50-cloud-init.yaml"

If you use a linux OS on PC (or VM), go to the SD card directory and edit this file.

```
cd /media/$USER/writable/etc/netplan
sudo nano 50-cloud-init.yaml
```

For those using Windows, plug in a keyboard and a monitor to the RPi, login using default username: "pi" passwords: "raspberry".

Then,

```
sudo nano /etc/netplan/50-cloud-init.yaml
```

In the 50-cloud-init.yaml...

The wlan0/eth0 are the names of the network interfaces, usually, these are the default values for the RPi model 3. If yours differ, ifconfig in the RPi should shows the available network interfaces.

```
network:
    ethernets:
    eth0:
        dhcp4: true
        optional: true

version: 2
renderer: NetworkManager
wifis:
    wlan0:
        optional: false
        dhcp4: no
        dhcp6: no
```

```
access-points:
    "__SSID__":
        band: 2.4GHz
        password: "wifipassword"
addresses: [static_ip/subnet_prefix]
gateway4: 192.168.1.1
nameservers:
    addresses: [1.1.1.1, 8.8.8.8, 4.4.4.4]
```

Since my home router shares both bands with the same SSID, I was having connection trouble when remoting to RPi using just dhcp. (I spent days trying to solve this issue, don't be like me)

Where,

__SSID__ is your WiFi name dhcp4: and dhcp6: is the ip address auto configuration.

band: the preferred WiFi band: 2.4GHz or 5GHz

channel: the WiFi channel.

addresses: the device ip address followed by / subnet prefix typically /24 (255.255.255.0)

gateway4: your network gateway, this should point to your router's ip address

nameservers: addresses: this is the DNS server addresses.

For more details, visit https://netplan.io/examples/

Check if the settings are correct with

```
sudo nano netplan -d generate
And, to apply the settings
sudo nano netplan apply
```

Test the connection with ping, to the RPi and to a website (like www.google.com).

~OK~ Now we should be able to install ROS2 on the RPi The ROS website provides a good installation tutorial to follow. -> https://docs.ros.org/en/foxy/Installation/Ubuntu-Install-Debians.html

Basically, you need to add ROS repo to the sources list, and install the base version of ROS. (for newer hardware like RPi-4 using ubuntu desktop, the ROS desktop could work as well) Since Ubuntu Server does not have GUI.

Now, the ROS server is installed on both your PC and RPi

-Test ROS connection.

On RPi

Install ros2 demo_nodes_cpp dmo_nodes_py, these are ROS demo packages.

```
sudo apt install ros-<rosdistro>-demo-nodes-cpp
sudo apt install ros-foxy-demo-nodes-py
```

The demo node package is already installed for ROS desktop.

Now you can follow the ROS tutorial website for running the demo_nodes

Be sure to source ROS and set same ROS DOMAIN ID, on both devices.

```
. /opt/ros/<rosdistro>/setup.bash export ROS_DOMAIN_ID=30
```

Now, run

```
ros2 run demo nodes cpp talker
```

```
ubuntu@ubuntuVM:~$ . /opt/ros/foxy/setup.bash
ubuntu@ubuntuVM:~$ ros2 run demo_nodes_cpp talker
[INFO] [1627543211.759391671] [talker]: Publishing: 'Hello World: 1'
[INFO] [1627543212.755630057] [talker]: Publishing: 'Hello World: 2'
[INFO] [1627543213.758145410] [talker]: Publishing: 'Hello World: 3'
```

On another terminal.

```
ros2 run demo_nodes_cpp listener
```

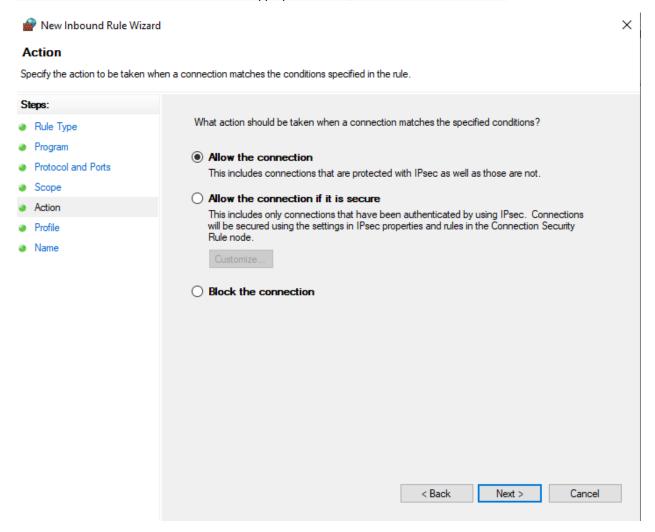
```
ubuntu@ubuntuVM:~$ ros2 run demo_nodes_cpp listener
[INFO] [1627543211.760105079] [listener]: I heard: [Hello World: 1]
[INFO] [1627543212.755973575] [listener]: I heard: [Hello World: 2]
[INFO] [1627543213.758517500] [listener]: I heard: [Hello World: 3]
```

If the device shows the following, ROS nodes can communicate to each other. If not, there are three potential problems: ROS, network, or Firewall (for windows)

It may be necessary to add firewall rules for Windows devices to be able to receive the message. Especially, if the PC can ping to the RPi, but not the other way.

To add firewall rule on windows for a specific IP

⊞ Win -> type 'control panel'-> Enter -> type 'firewall' -> Windows Defender Firewall -> Advances settings -> New Rule... -> Rule type -> Custom, Scope -> These IP addresses -> <Input RPi IP addresses in Remote IP addresses -> Action -> Allow the connection. Select the appropriate Profile, Name the rule and enable it.



For PC installation, follow

https://docs.ros.org/en/rolling/Installation/Ubuntu-Install-Debians.html

And install, navigation2 and slam-tool-box

sudo apt install ros-<distro>-navigation2 ros-<distro>-nav2-bringup sudo apt install ros-<ros2-distro>-slam-toolbox Running the package

There are 2 main packages

Install.tar.gz for PC and install_aarch64.tar.gz for RPI

Extract the archive into the desired directories and source them.

```
tar -xf install.tar.gz <destination_dir_name>
. <destination dir name>/setup.bash
```

Launch the package on RPi and PC

RPi

ros2 launch bot bringup launch.py

PC

Ros2 launch bot bringup pc.launch.py

On the PC screen you will see the program RVIZ launch with the robot in it.

The nav2 might not start sometimes, so just relaunch the script again.

To navigate the robot around use

Navigation2 Goal tool and place a waypoint on the map,

Or by publishing a ROS goal message

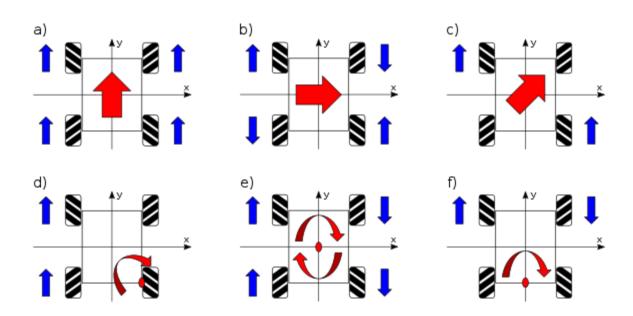
ros2 topic pub /goal_pose geometry_msgs/PoseStamped "{header: {stamp: {sec: 0}, frame_id: 'map'}, pose: {position: {x: 0.2, y: 0.0, z: 0.0}, orientation: {w: 1.0}}}"

and the robot should make an attempt to reach the published goal!

Also, the above script can be saved to a script and execute with crontab (crontab -e) to schedule the robot. Now, the robot will routinely navigate to the given position.

Hardware:

This robot platform has omnidirectional Mecanum wheels. So, it can traverse sideways unlike the radial wheels. This kind of wheel produces opposite forces when turning, the direction of the robot depends on the resultant force of the 4 wheels.



Here is the picture of how this Mecanum wheel configuration works.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mecanum wheel control principle.svg

The goal here is to publish the odometry information to ROS2, so that other packages/nodes can use the odometry information for navigation, mapping, or magic. ROS2 has provided the class Odometry that holds this information specifically.

A peek into the docs.ros.org/nav_msgs/Odometry Message shows

```
# This represents an estimate of a position and velocity in free space.
# The pose in this message should be specified in the coordinate frame giv
```

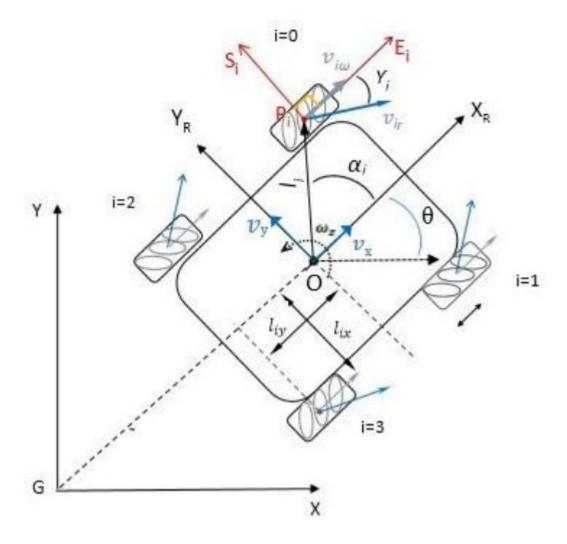
 $\mbox{\tt\#}$ The twist in this message should be specified in the coordinate frame given by the child_frame_id

```
Header header
string child_frame_id
geometry_msgs/PoseWithCovariance pose
geometry msgs/TwistWithCovariance twist
```

[#] The pose in this message should be specified in the coordinate frame given by header.frame_id.

So, following the nav2 link to ROS1 odometry publisher file http://wiki.ros.org/navigation/Tutorials/RobotSetup/Odom/

Obtaining the twist and pose, which are the robot's speed and position



And there is this paper that carries out the calculation for this wheel configuration. Source: https://research.ijcaonline.org/volume113/number3/pxc3901586.pdf

• This is the kinematics for the typical setup of the Mecanum found more common on the Internet. Make sure the wheel is aligned correctly.

So, here are the forward and inverse kinematics of the robot. (eq. 19, eq. 21)

According to equations (10) and (11) for *Forward* and *Inverse* kinematics there is:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \omega_1 \\ \omega_2 \\ \omega_3 \\ \omega_4 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{r} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & -(l_x + l_y) \\ 1 & 1 & (l_x + l_y) \\ 1 & 1 & -(l_x + l_y) \\ 1 & -1 & (l_x + l_y) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \\ \omega_z \end{bmatrix}.$$
 eq. 19

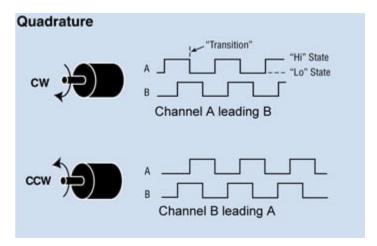
$$\begin{cases} \omega_{1} = \frac{1}{r} (v_{x} - v_{y} - (l_{x} + l_{y})\omega), \\ \omega_{2} = \frac{1}{r} (v_{x} + v_{y} + (l_{x} + l_{y})\omega), \\ \omega_{3} = \frac{1}{r} (v_{x} + v_{y} - (l_{x} + l_{y})\omega), \\ \omega_{4} = \frac{1}{r} (v_{x} - v_{y} + (l_{x} + l_{y})\omega). \end{cases}$$
eq. 20

And

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_{x} \\ v_{y} \\ \omega_{z} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{r}{4} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ -\frac{1}{(l_{x}+l_{y})} & \frac{1}{(l_{x}+l_{y})} & -\frac{1}{(l_{x}+l_{y})} & \frac{1}{(l_{x}+l_{y})} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \omega_{1} \\ \omega_{2} \\ \omega_{3} \\ \omega_{4} \end{bmatrix}$$
eq. 21

The forward kinematics (eq. 19) will come in handy later. For now, we will be using the eq. 21.

Encoder



https://www.dynapar.com/hubfs/uploadedImages/_Site_Root/technology/encoder_basics/quadrature.j

The speed is obtained from measuring the number of pulses in a time window. And then convert it to angular speed. (Comparing with the number of pulses in one revolution (2pi rad).)

Ang_Speed(rad/s) = Pulse_speed(pulse/s) * $(2\pi / pulses in 1 rev)$

Thanks to GitHub user, nstansby, for providing a solid encoder library that handles signal bouncing very well.

*Encoder channel A, B will be swapped on one side of the robot, otherwise, the encoder will read the speed backwards.

Now that we have the angular speed of each wheel, we can use eq.19 to get the speeds.

The position is calculating multiplying the time step to the speed.

The LIDAR used here is Delta 2A Lidar from 3iRobotix, which is not supported on ROS2 LIDAR, there is only ROS1 code from the vendor's website. So, I had to port it to ROS2. The SDK and the publisher are included in the project file.

Be sure that the program has access to the LIDAR and provide to correct USB port in the launch file.

Check that RPi can 'see' the USB interface. The default port is /dev/ttyUSB0

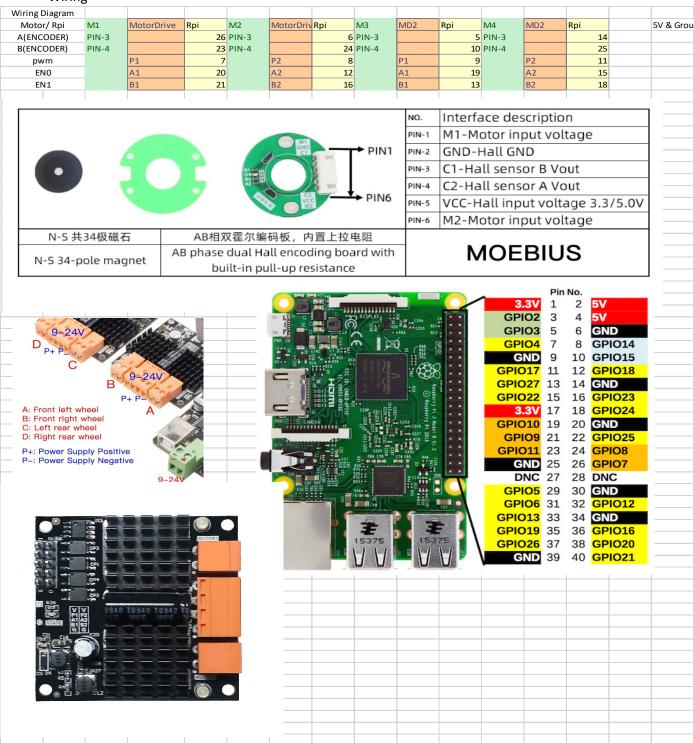
Below commands will list the connected ttyUSB interfaces and add permission to the port /dev/ttyUSB0.

Is -I /dev/tty | grep USB sudo chmod 666 /dev/ttyUSB0

The original SDK has not been found on the 3irobotics website at the time of writing, so an alternative from GitHub will be sourced here. Note that the original version of the node.cpp is for ROS1.

https://github.com/CWRU-AutonomousVehiclesLab/Delta-2B-Lidar-SDK

Wiring



ROS nodes: turtlebot3_teleop, nav2, slam_toolbox, odom, state, Lidar

Now that the hardware is prepared, it is time to get the data and publish to ROS.

As stated in the documentation, the navigation stack uses robot transform(tf/tf2) and velocity. But the information is separated in to two topics. So, we need to publish two topics: transform and odometry.

There are many ways to write a publisher function, this is not the best one. I would recommend to follow the ROS2 tutorial and the navigation stack tutorial for more information.

Below is the modified python script ported from navigation tutorials http://wiki.ros.org/navigation/Tutorials/RobotSetup/Odom/

Be warned though, this is a code written by a monkey.
Putting a while loop in the init function will block other process, producing some weird behaviors.

The code below is not bug free though, but it will work for the time being.

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3
import time
import rclpy
from rclpy.node import Node
from rclpy.qos import QoSProfile
from rclpy.duration import Duration
from math import sin, cos
from nav msgs.msg import Odometry
from geometry_msgs.msg import Quaternion, Vector3, TransformStamped
from tf2 ros import TransformBroadcaster#, TransformStamped
from sensor msgs.msg import JointState, Imu
from shared param.common param import WHEEL PORTS
from encoder2 import Encoder2
class OdometryPublisher(Node):
    def __init__(self):
        super().__init__('bot_state_publisher')
        qos profile = QoSProfile(depth=10)
        self.odom pub = self.create publisher(Odometry, 'odom', gos profile)
        self.broadcaster = TransformBroadcaster(self, qos=qos_profile)
        # message declarations
        odom trans = TransformStamped()
        odom trans.header.frame id = 'odom'
        odom_trans.child_frame_id = 'base_link' #'base_link'
        odom = Odometry()
        odom.header.frame id = 'odom'
        odom.child frame id = 'base link' #'base link'
        loop_rate = self.create_rate(30) #Hz
        x = 0.0
        v = 0.0
        th = 0.0
        VX = 0.0
        vv = 0.0
        vth = 0.0
        current time = 0
        last_time = Duration(seconds=0, nanoseconds=0)
try:
            while rclpy.ok():
                rclpy.spin once(self)
```

```
#update time
                current time = self.get clock().now()
                # compute odometry in a typical way given velocities
               dt = float((current_time - last_time).nanoseconds) / (10 ** 9) #
               #get velocities
               vx, vy, vth = en_all.cal_r_velocity(dt * 1000) # convert back to
miliseconds
               ## debug
               ##print("x: {} y: {} z{}".format(vx, vy, vth), end='\r')
               delta_x = (vx * cos(th) - vy * sin(th)) * dt
               delta_y = (vx * sin(th) + vy * cos(th)) * dt
               delta th = vth * dt
               x += delta x
               y += delta_y
               th += delta th
               #update odom
               odom.header.stamp = current time.to msg()
               odom.pose.pose.position.x = x
               odom.pose.pose.position.y = y
               odom.pose.pose.position.z = 0.0
               odom.pose.pose.orientation = \
                    euler_to_quaternion(0, 0, th)
               odom.twist.twist.linear.x = vx
                odom.twist.twist.linear.y = vy
               odom.twist.twist.angular.z = vth
               self.odom_pub.publish(odom)
                #update transform
               odom trans.header.stamp = current time.to msg()
               odom trans.transform.translation.x = x
               odom_trans.transform.translation.y = y
               odom_trans.transform.translation.z = 0.0
               odom trans.transform.rotation = \
                    euler_to_quaternion(0, 0, th)
               self.broadcaster.sendTransform(odom trans)
```

```
joint_state.header.stamp = current_time.to_msg()
                joint_state.position = \
                    en_all.get_encoder_rad()
                self.joint_state_pub.publish(joint_state)
                #updating lasttime
                last_time = current_time
                # This will adjust as needed per iteration
                loop rate.sleep()
        except KeyboardInterrupt:
            self.destroy_node()
            rclpy.shutdown()
def euler_to_quaternion(roll, pitch, yaw):
    qx = sin(rol1/2) * cos(pitch/2) * cos(yaw/2) - cos(rol1/2) * sin(pitch/2) * s
in(yaw/2)
    qy = cos(rol1/2) * sin(pitch/2) * cos(yaw/2) + sin(rol1/2) * cos(pitch/2) * s
in(yaw/2)
    qz = cos(rol1/2) * cos(pitch/2) * sin(yaw/2) - sin(rol1/2) * sin(pitch/2) * c
os(yaw/2)
    qw = cos(rol1/2) * cos(pitch/2) * cos(yaw/2) + sin(rol1/2) * sin(pitch/2) * s
in(yaw/2)
    return Quaternion(x=qx, y=qy, z=qz, w=qw)
def main(args = None):
    rclpy.init(args= args)
    OdometryPublisher()
if __name__ == '__main__':
   main()
```

Controlling the robot through ROS.

This is a ROS subscriber node to the topic 'cmd_vel', allowing other packages to control the robot.

The cmd_vel message specifies the speed in standard ROS convention (Vx, Vy, W), this where eq.19 translates those velocities into wheel speeds. The rest, is to pass that to the motor controller.

```
def cmd vel callback(self, msg):
       # Store velocity from teleop
       vx = msg.linear.x
       vy = msg.linear.y
        wz = msg.angular.z
        w1, w2, w3, w4 = mecanum_IK(vx, vy, wz)
        motors[0].simple linear speed control(w1)
        motors[1].simple_linear_speed_control(w2)
        motors[2].simple_linear_speed_control(w3)
        motors[3].simple_linear_speed_control(w4)
def mecanum IK(vx, vy, wz, \
   wheelbase = WHEELBASE_, track = TRACK_, wheel_radius = WHEELRADIUS_):
   # calculate wheel speed (rps) from given speeds (m/s, rps)
    lxly = (track + wheelbase) / 2
   fwradius = 1/wheel radius
   w1 = fwradius * (vx - vy - lxly * wz)
   w2 = fwradius * (vx + vy + lxly * wz)
   w3 = fwradius * (vx + vy - lxly * wz)
   w4 = fwradius * (vx - vy + lxly * wz)
    return w1, w2, w3, w4
```

And below script just commands a H-Bridge connected to the motor.

The plot duty cycle vs angular speed shows a somewhat linear relationship. (I tried PID control as well, but it did not work as well) so, the conversion is simply:

```
duty cycle = m * w(rad/s), where m is (max duty cycle / max angular speed)
```

I also added a low threshold, because the motors will not rotate at a low duty cycle. I suspect my puffy batteries do not have an adequate current.

```
def drive(self, dc):
    self.pwm.ChangeDutyCycle(dc)
    self.duty_cycles = dc

def simple_linear_speed_control(self, velocity):
```

```
pwm_dc = linear_profiler(abs(velocity))
        if (velocity > 0):
            # positive -> forward mode 01 on H bridge
            self.change_mode('01')
        elif (velocity < 0):</pre>
            self.change_mode('10')
        else:
            self.change_mode('00')
        #print("duty cycle {}".format(pwm_dc))
        self.drive(pwm dc)
def bound(x, out_min = 0, out_max = 100):
    \#r = (x - in\_min) * (out\_max - out\_min) / (in\_max - in\_min) + out\_min
    r = x
            # check constrain
    if r > out_max:
        r = out max
    elif r < out_min:</pre>
        r = out_min
    return r
def linear_profiler(x, m = PWM_LINEAR_PROFILE, min = 12 , max = 90):
    pwm = x * m
    # no speed change in rps
    if pwm < min:</pre>
        return pwm
    elif pwm > max:
        pwm = 100
    # with
    return bound(pwm)
```

Modify turtlebot3 keyboard teleoperation script

Added Y-axis speed to the message.

```
elif key == 'q':
                target_linear_y_velocity =\
                    check_linear_y_limit_velocity(target_linear_y_velocity + LIN_
VEL_STEP_SIZE)
                #if target linear y velocity < BOT LOW BOUND and target linear y</pre>
                     target linear y velocity = BOT LOW BOUND
                target_linear_y_velocity = low_bound(target_linear_y_velocity, BO
T_LOW_BOUND)
                status = status + 1
                print_vels(target_linear_velocity, target_angular_velocity, targe
t_linear_y_velocity)
            elif key == 'e':
                target_linear_y_velocity =\
                    check_linear_y_limit_velocity(target_linear_y_velocity - LIN_
VEL_STEP_SIZE)
                #if target linear y velocity > - BOT LOW BOUND and target linear
y_velocity < 0:</pre>
                      target linear y velocity = BOT LOW BOUND
                target_linear_y_velocity = low_bound(target_linear_y_velocity, -
BOT_LOW_BOUND)
                status = status + 1
                print_vels(target_linear_y_velocity, target_angular_velocity, tar
get linear y velocity)
```

Slam toolbox

This is the package responsible for generating a map from the lidar sensor. To use this package, firstly install it with

```
apt install ros-eloquent-slam-toolbox
```

To test run it.

```
ros2 launch slam_toolbox online_sync_launch.py
```

For customization, we will modify the config file from the original package to suit the robot settings.

The important parameters as stated by http://www.robotandchisel.com/2020/08/19/slam-in-ros2/ are

```
# ROS Parameters
odom_frame: odom
map_frame: map
base_frame: base_footprint #base_link
scan_topic: /scan
```

Here the toolbox provides transform of map -> odom frame, and the uses robot's projection on the map frame, base_footprint. The scan topic should point to the LIDAR scan topic.

The slamtoolbox is called by a launch file.

This points to the config file we have just edited.

And,

```
start_async_slam_toolbox_node = Node(
    parameters=[
        slam_params_file,
        {'use_sim_time': use_sim_time}
    ],
    package='slam_toolbox',
    executable='async_slam_toolbox_node',
    name='slam_toolbox',
    output='screen')
```

Declares the node, finally they are added to the launch description of ROS launch file.

```
ld = LaunchDescription()

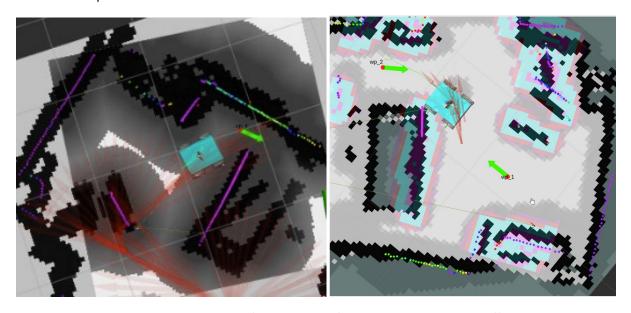
ld.add_action(declare_use_sim_time_argument)

ld.add_action(declare_slam_params_file_cmd)

ld.add_action(start_async_slam_toolbox_node)

return ld
```

Nav2 cost map



Like slam_toolbox, the nav2 can be configured. The left and right pictures use different robot radius, inflation radius and cost scaling factor.

The navigation Costmap parameters are explained in

https://emanual.robotis.com/docs/en/platform/turtlebot3/navigation/ and

https://navigation.ros.org/configuration/packages/configuring-costmaps.html

robot model type: "omnidirectional" #"differential"

Since, we are using Mecanum wheels, I have changed it to omnidirectional, but there is not much changes during the testing.

I also reduced the rotational speed of the robot, to allow the slam_toolbox to match up the map nicely. In the controller server DWB parameters and recovery server

```
controller_server:
    ros__parameters:
    # DWB parameters
    FollowPath:
        plugin: "dwb_core::DWBLocalPlanner"
```

```
debug_trajectory_details: True
min_vel_x: -0.22
min_vel_y: -0.22 #0.0
max_vel_x: 0.22
max_vel_y: 0.22 #0.0
max_vel_theta: 0.39
min_speed_xy: -0.22 #0.0
max_speed_xy: 0.22
min_speed_theta: -0.39
```

```
recoveries_server:
   ros__parameters:
    max_rotational_vel: 0.44
   min_rotational_vel: 0.41
   rotational_acc_lim: 3.2
```