

# ROS2 for Robot Mapping and Navigation

Zoe Li  
Zoe.Li@bshg.com

**Abstract**—This guide gives an overview of ROS2 status with an example of SLAM implementation. ROS2 is an upgrade after one decade since the introduction of ROS (Robotic Operating System) and is still under heavy development at this moment as June 2019. In this guide, we discuss and evaluate some of its new features by implementing SLAM in ROS2 in simulation and on a real robot. These new features are briefly introduced and some are tested in this implementation. A demo with source code is provided in the end of the paper.

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Robot Operating System Background

Robot Operating System (ROS) is a robotics middleware that was created by Willow Garage and Stanford University and now maintained by Open Source Robotics Foundation(OSRF)[2]. As an open source framework for various robotics software development, ROS provides functions such as hardware abstraction, device control, message passing, package management and libraries for different functionalities. The modularity of ROS allows users to focus on application development rather than spending much effort to reinvent the wheel.

### B. ROS2 Design Background

ROS was originally designed for PR2 use case. PR2 robot works as a standalone robot with excellent network connectivity, also PR2 applications are mostly research based, therefore the early design concept of ROS does not need to consider real-time problems.

Nowadays ROS has gained tremendous popularity in robotics community, and the use cases has grown beyond the scope of academia and scientific research. Many robotics applications such as industrial robots, outdoor robots(for example driver-less cars), unmanned aerial vehicles(UVA) have become more and more complicated, as a result, those applications have higher demand on the robust real-time performance of the robot operating system. Although ROS1 is still a very popular development tool in the field of robotics, the limitations of the original design have become a driving force of the new ROS2 design.

With the growing demand of cross operating system platform and real-time functionality from the ROS community, ROS2 development was first announced at ROSCon 2014, and the first alpha version was launched in August 2015. On December 8, 2017, the highly anticipated ROS 2.0 finally released its first official version, Ardent Apalone. As of 2019, the newest version ROS 2 Dashing Diademata was released on May 30.

Compare to ROS1, ROS2 has the following support for robotics applications:

- **Cross-system platform support:** ROS2 support for Linux, Windows and macOS as well as the real-time operating system(RTOS).
- **Multi-robot system support:** Improved communication system allows robust network performance for multi-robot system
- **Real-time control:** support to improve the timeliness of a robot control application and overall robot performance
- **Non-ideal networks:**
- **Production environments:**
- **Small embedded platforms:**

### C. ROS2 Communication

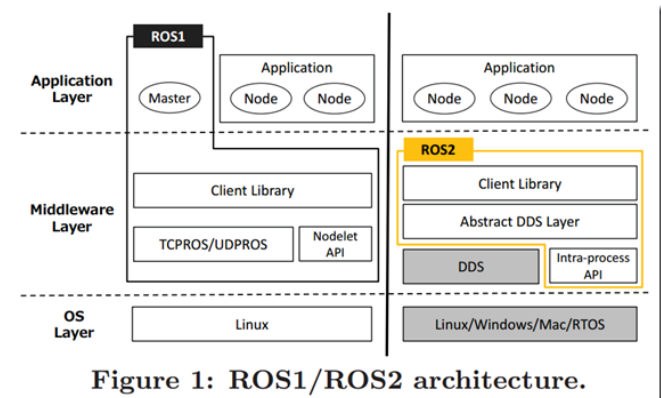


Figure 1: ROS1/ROS2 architecture.

Fig. 1. ROS1/ROS2 Architecture [1]

ROS1 uses TCP (Transmission Control Protocol) as its communication protocol. TCP is a connection oriented network, this means that TCP tracks all data sent, requiring acknowledgment for each octet (generally), therefore, ROS1 has a centralized network configuration which requires a running ROS master to take care of naming and registration services. With the help of the master, ROS nodes could find each other on the network and communicate in a peer-to-peer fashion. In ROS1 setting, all nodes will depend on the central ROS master. When the network becomes lossy and unstable(especially if nodes are distributed on several computers), the communication will not be reliable for real-time applications or multi-robot systems.

ROS2 uses Data Distribution Service (DDS) as the communication middleware. UDP is a Data-Centric-Publish-Subscribe(DCPs) model, and this model will create global

data space for individual applications to exchange information. DDS will identify a data object by its topic name and then subscribe to this topic, therefore, DDS does not have a central distributor for all information. The DDS publish-subscribe model avoids complex network programming for distributed applications. ROS2 provides an abstraction layer of DDS, so users do not need to pay attention to the underlying DDS structure. The ROS2 Middleware Interface(RMW) allows users to choose different Quality of Service(QoS). The real-time publish-subscribe (RTPS) protocol allows ROS2 nodes to automatically find each other on the network, thus there is no need for a ROS2 master. This is an important point in terms of fault tolerance.

## II. RELATED WORK

When ROS2 Bouncy was released, a TurtleBot 2 demo was provided to demonstrate the some popular mapping and localization packages that runs in ROS 2. TurtleBot 2 demo uses Google Cartographer to get maps of the environment, and use AMCL package to localize. TurtleBot 2 demo also provided TurtleBot 2 driver and the Orbbec Astra depth camera sensor driver. At the time this demo was created, ROS2 navigation stack was still under development, therefore, TurtleBot 2 demo uses joystick to manually operate the robot to create maps.

## III. METHOD

The objective of this demo is to build a kobuki SLAM and navigation demo on top of the existing TurtleBot 2 demo, and update packages so that the kobuki robot can achieve SLAM and autonomous navigation using the latest ROS 2 Dashing Diademata release.

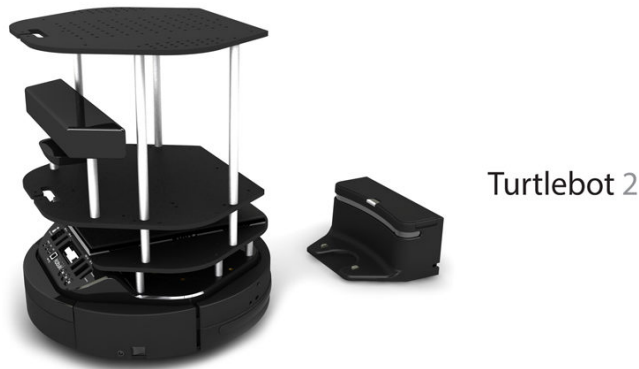


Fig. 2. Image of Kobuki Robot(TODO)

- Hardware setup
  - Robot: Kobuki (turtlebot2)
  - Sensor: hokuyo laser scanner
- ROS2 Packages:
  - Mapping
    - \* cartographer (binary release available)
    - \* cartographer-ros

- Visualization
  - \* ros1\_bridge (binary release available)
  - \* rviz
- Controller and drivers:
  - \* teleop\_twist\_keyboard (binary release available)
  - \* urg\_node: URG laser scan driver
  - \* turtlebot2\_drivers: provide kobuki\_node to drive the Kobuki Robot
- Simulation:
  - \* Gazebo9 simulation (binary release available)
- Simulation Plan
  - Setup gazebo for kobuki
  - Setup laser scan
  - Run cartographer in simulation
  - After getting map, try the navigation stack

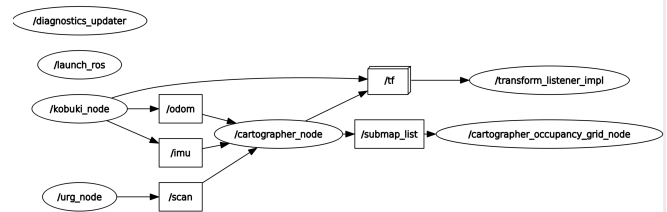


Fig. 3. ROS2 rqt\_graph

## IV. RESULTS

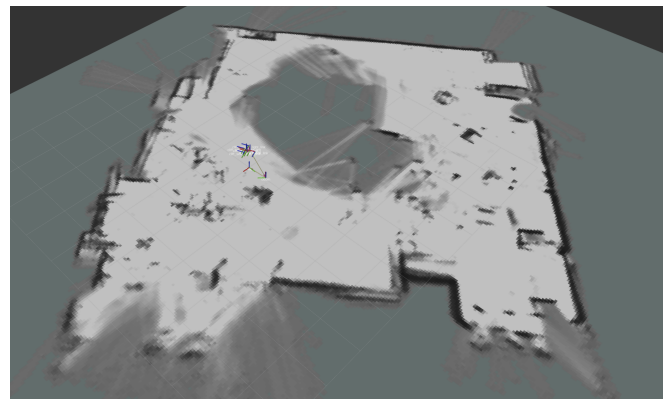


Fig. 4. map obtained by google cartographer

## V. CONCLUSIONS

We worked hard, and achieved very little.

## VI. REFERENCE

## APPENDIX

Appendixes should appear before the acknowledgment.

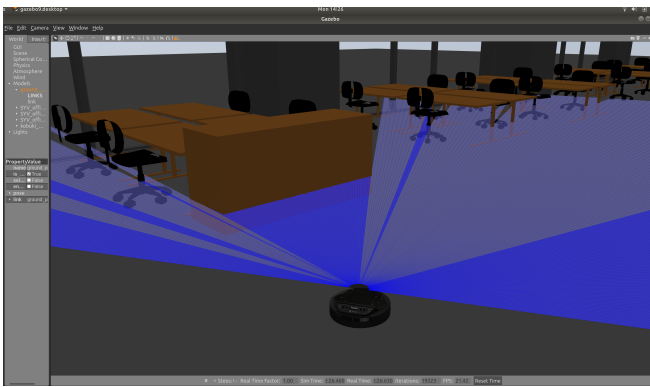


Fig. 5. map obtained by google cartographer

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

### REFERENCES

- [1] Y. Maruyama, S. Kato, and T. Azumi, Exploring the performance of ROS2, Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Embedded Software - EMSOFT 16, 2016.
- [2] Open Source Robotics Foundation(OSRF)  
<http://www.osrfoundation.org/>.