

Movel2 configuration

Movel2 is an advanced software framework for robot motion simulation, planning and control.

1. Environment setup

Motherboard: Jetson Orin Nano/Nx

ROS2: Humble

1.1. Install Movel2

```
sudo apt install ros-humble-moveit*
```

The Jetson Orin series motherboard can run Movel2 related cases directly on the motherboard, and the overall fluency is acceptable!

1.2. Create a folder

Create the configuration file automatically generated by Movel2:

```
mkdir ~/dofbot_pro_ws/src/dofbot_pro_moveit
```

2. Movel2 configuration

Movel Setup Assistant is a graphical tool to simplify and speed up the creation and configuration of Movel2 configuration packages.

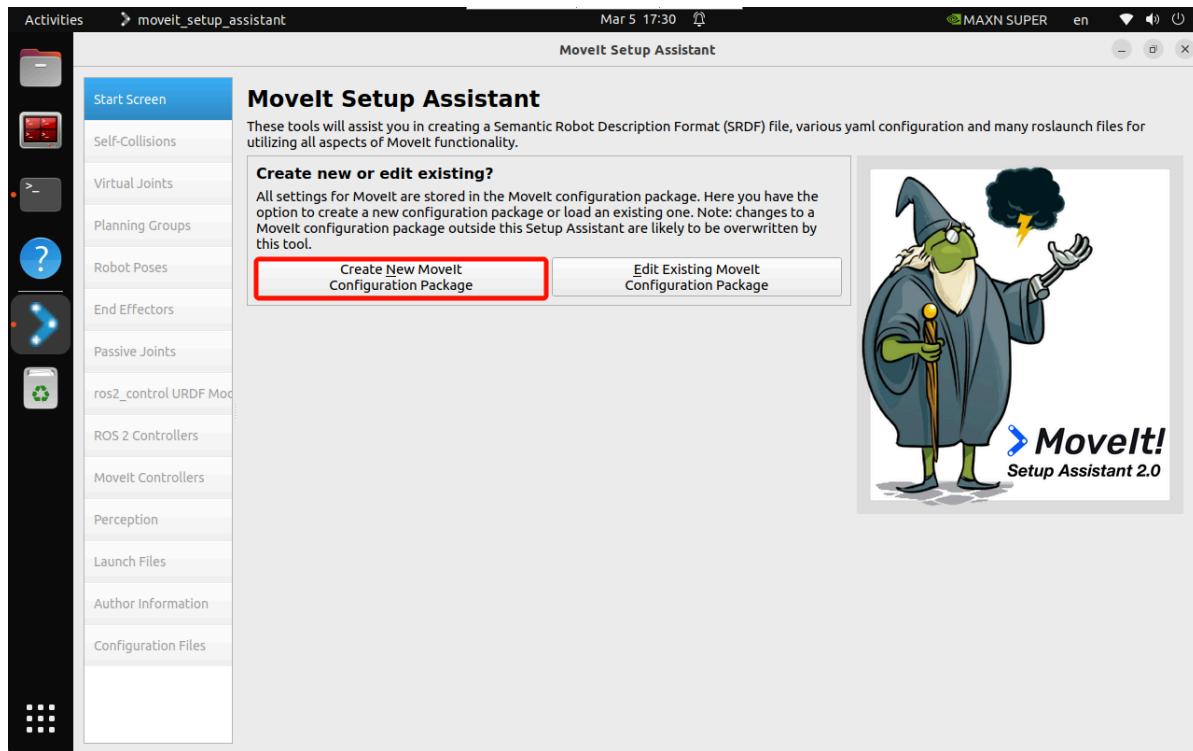
Through this tool, users can easily generate configuration files for robot motion planning and control without manually editing complex configuration files

2.1. Start the Assistant

Start Movel Setup Assistant:

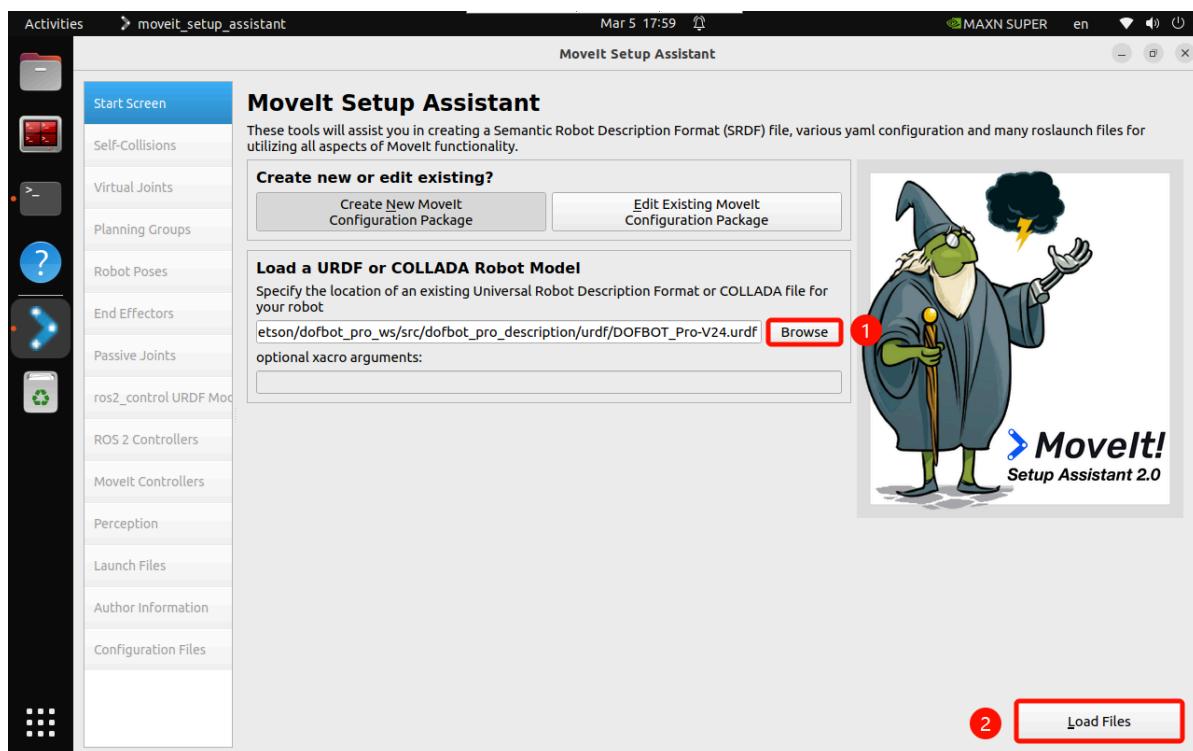
```
ros2 launch moveit_setup_assistant setup_assistant.launch.py
```

For the first time, you can choose to create a new Movel configuration package. For simple modifications later, you can choose to compile the existing Movel package:

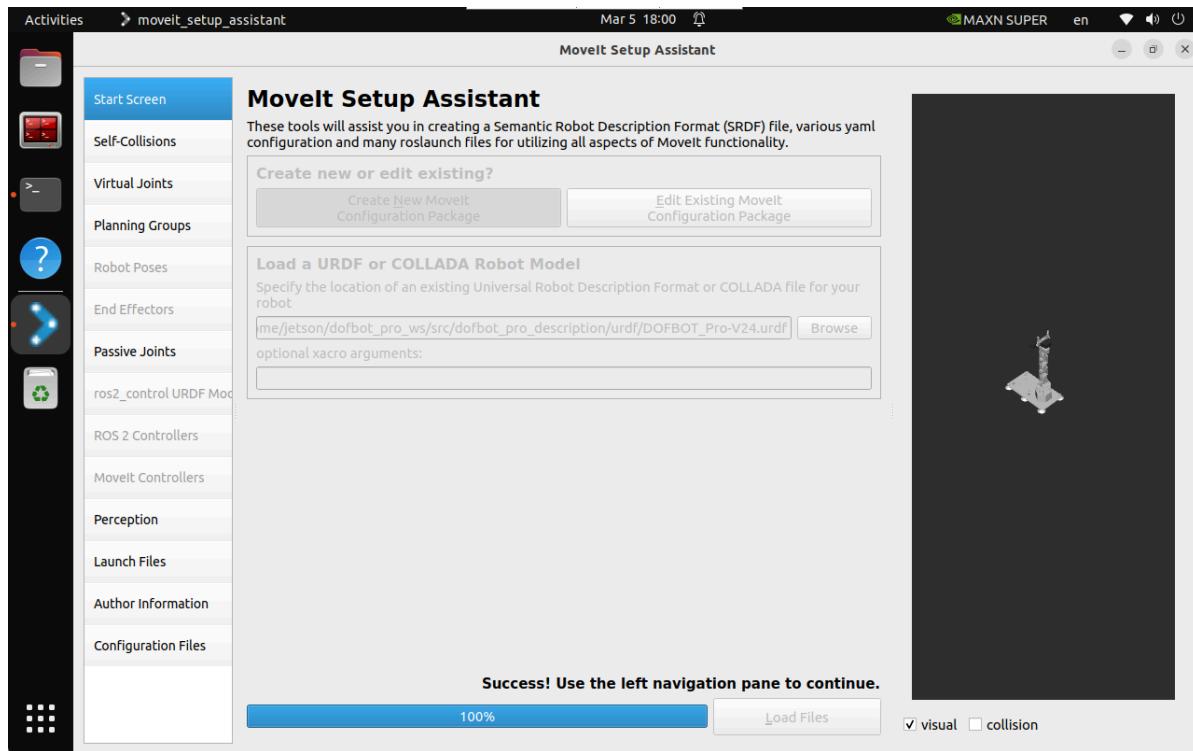


To create a new MoveIt configuration package, you need to import the robot's URDF model:
Simply importing the URDF model file into the MoveIt Assistant will report an error, and you need to use the compiled package (dofbot_pro_description) URDF file path

```
/home/jetson/dofbot_pro_ws/src/dofbot_pro_description/urdf/DOFBOT_Pro-V24.urdf
```



After selecting the URDF file, click Load File and the MoveIt Assistant will display the robot model:

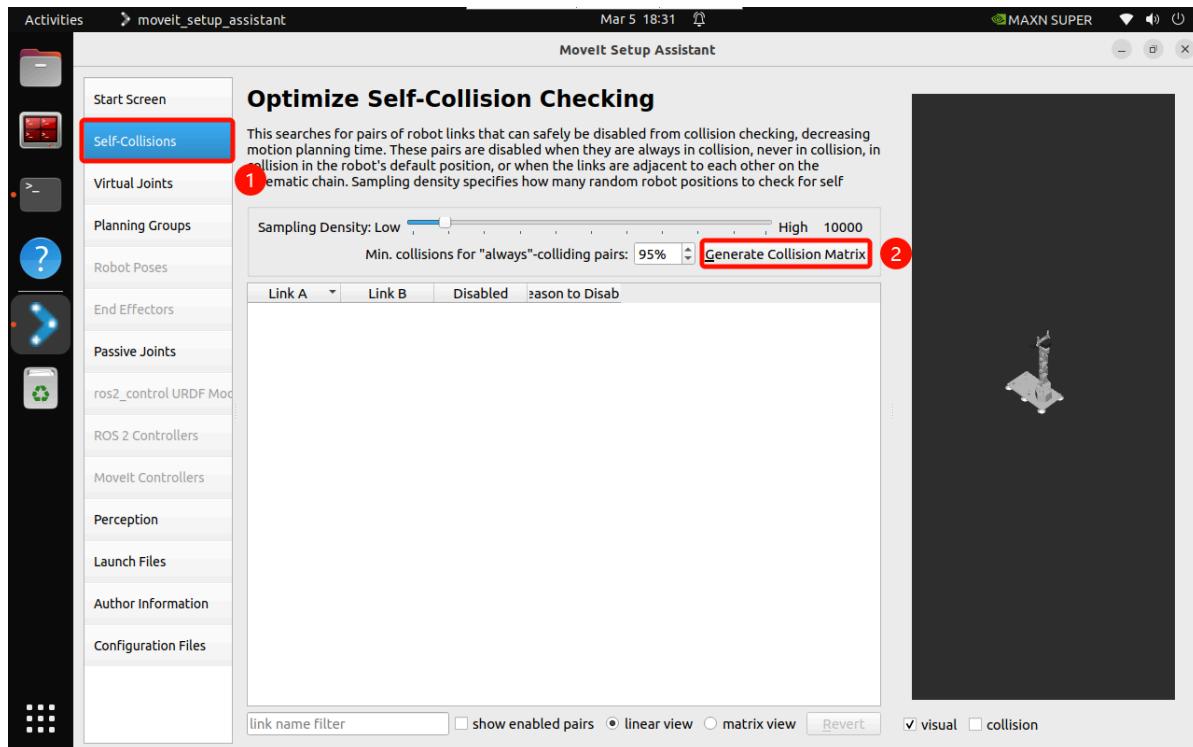


2.2, Collision Detection

The self-collision matrix is a function used to optimize motion planning. Its main function is to generate a matrix to describe whether collisions may occur between the links in the robot model.

This matrix can help the motion planner avoid unnecessary collision detection when planning the path, thereby improving planning efficiency.

To generate a self-collision matrix, you can click the MoveIt Setup Assistant option to automatically generate it:



Optimize Self-Collision Checking

This searches for pairs of robot links that can safely be disabled from collision checking, decreasing motion planning time. These pairs are disabled when they are always in collision, never in collision, in collision in the robot's default position, or when the links are adjacent to each other on the kinematic chain. Sampling density specifies how many random robot positions to check for self-collision.

Sampling Density: Low 10000
Min. collisions for "always"-colliding pairs: 95%

	base_link	Arm1_Link	Arm2_Link	Arm3_Link	Arm4_Link	Arm5_Link	Gripping_point_Link	rlink1	rlink2
base_link		✓	✓	✓	□	□	□	□	□
Arm1_Link	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arm2_Link	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arm3_Link	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arm4_Link	□	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Arm5_Link	□	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Gripping_point_Link	□	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
rlink1	□	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
rlink2	□	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
llink1	□	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
llink2	□	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	□

link name filter linear view matrix view visual collision

2.3. Virtual joints

A virtual joint is used to define the relationship between the robot model and the external world.

Virtual joints are usually used to describe the connection between the robot base and a fixed reference system (such as the world coordinate system).

Define Virtual Joints

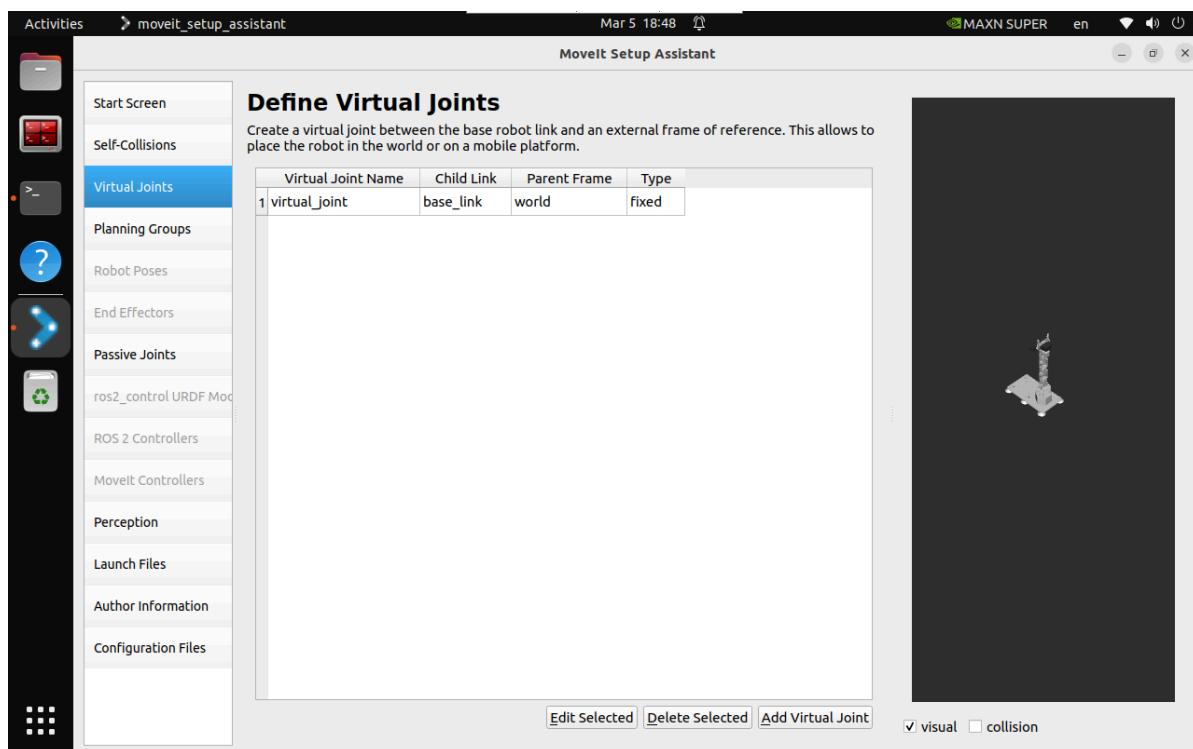
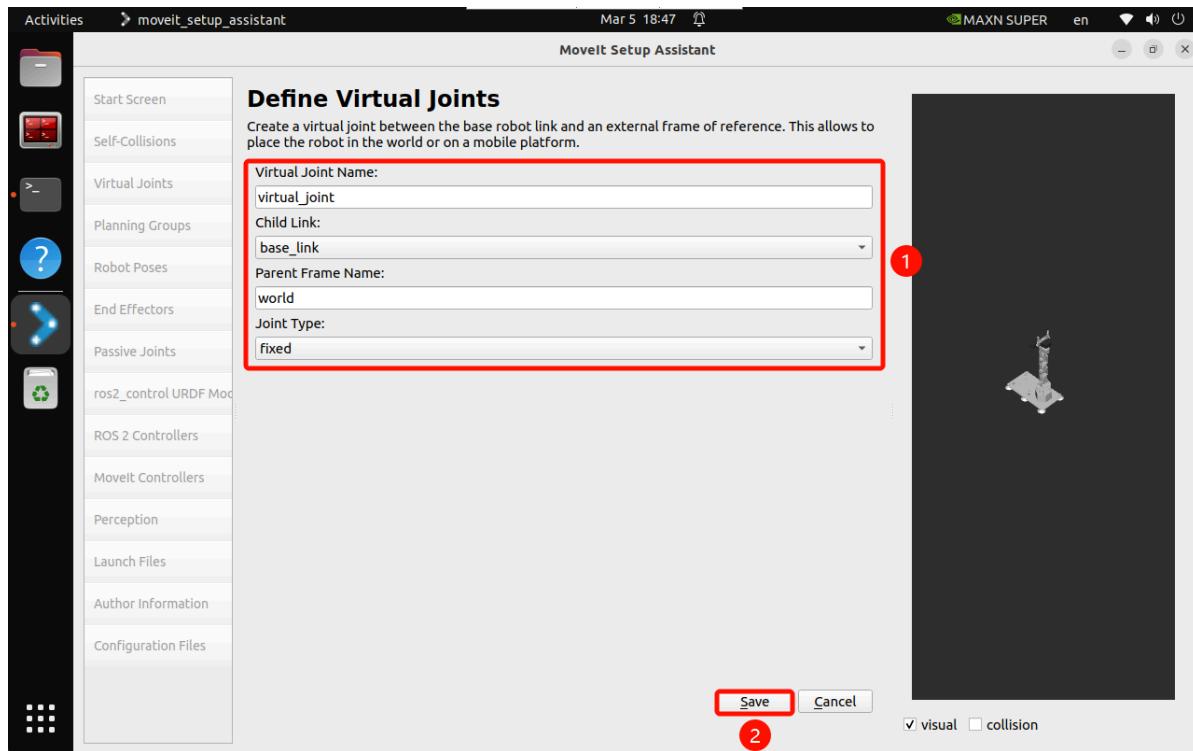
Create a virtual joint between the base robot link and an external frame of reference. This allows to place the robot in the world or on a mobile platform.

Virtual Joint Name	Child Link	Parent Frame	Type
--------------------	------------	--------------	------

visual collision

Fix the robot base link `base_link` and `world`:

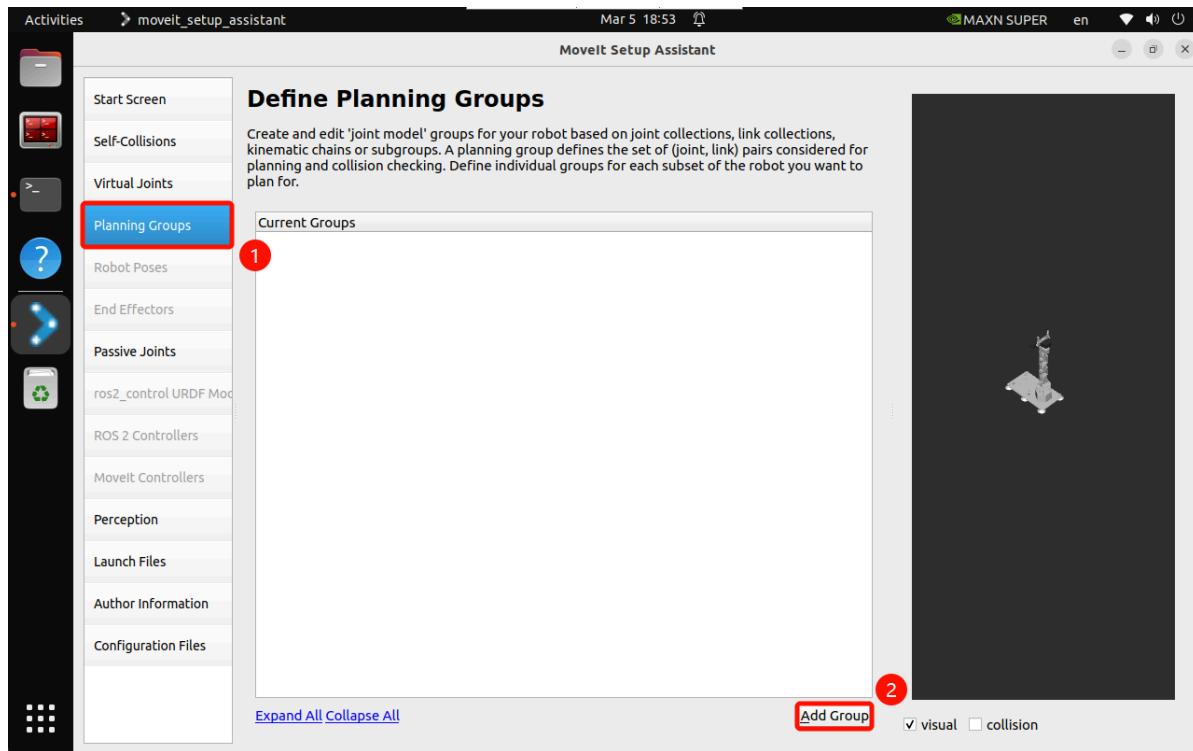
- Virtual Joint Name: `virtual_joint`
- Child Link: `base_link`
- Parent Frame Name: `world`
- Joint Type: `fixed`



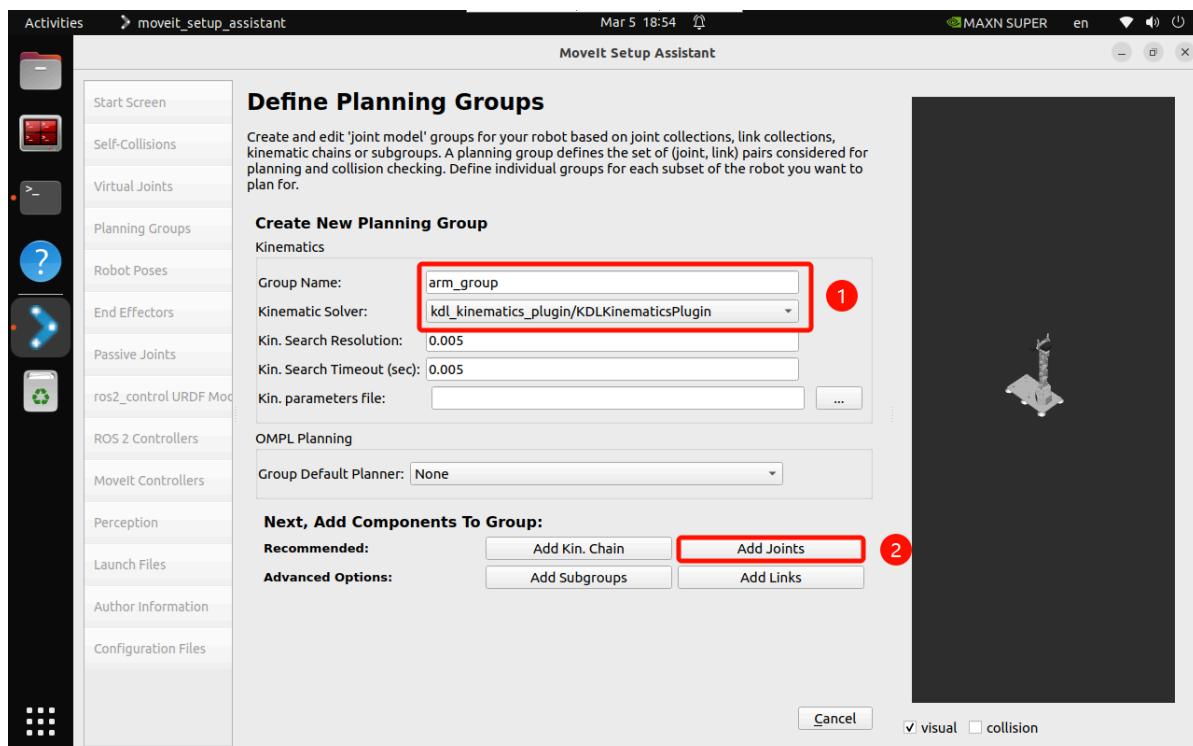
2.4, Motion Planning Group

The planning group is a key step in configuring the robot's motion planning.

The planning group defines which joints and links in the robot can move together and how to plan their motion.

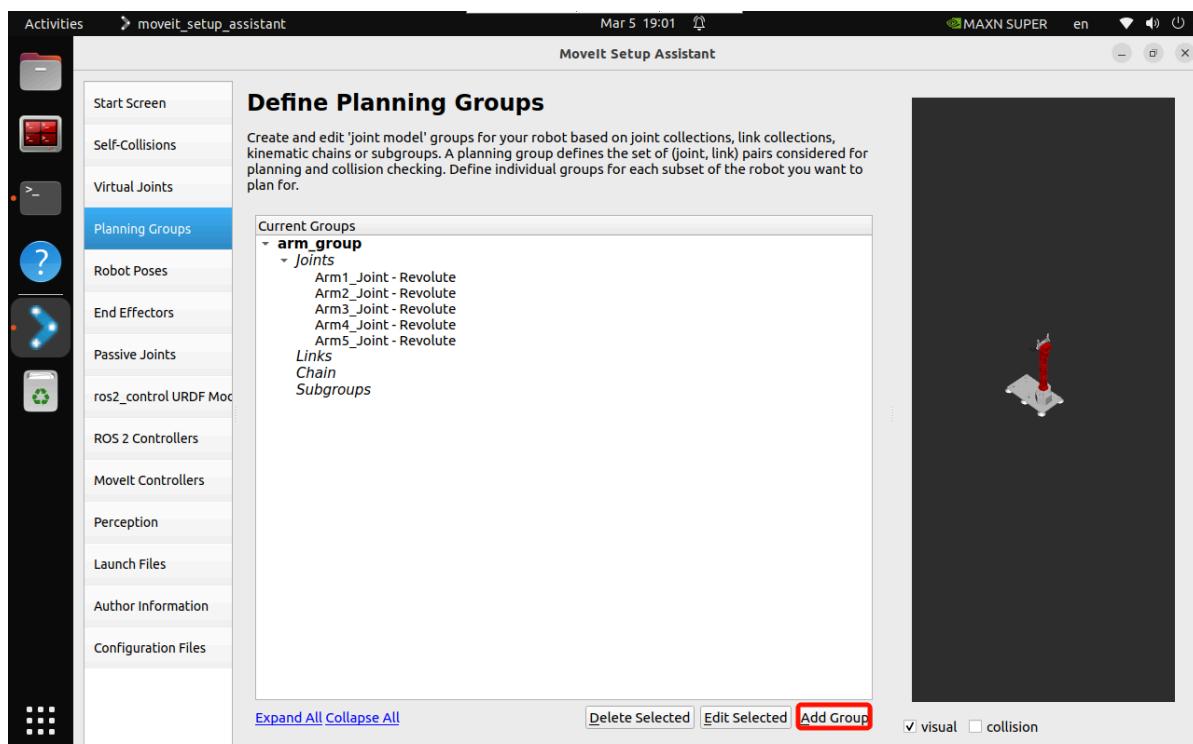
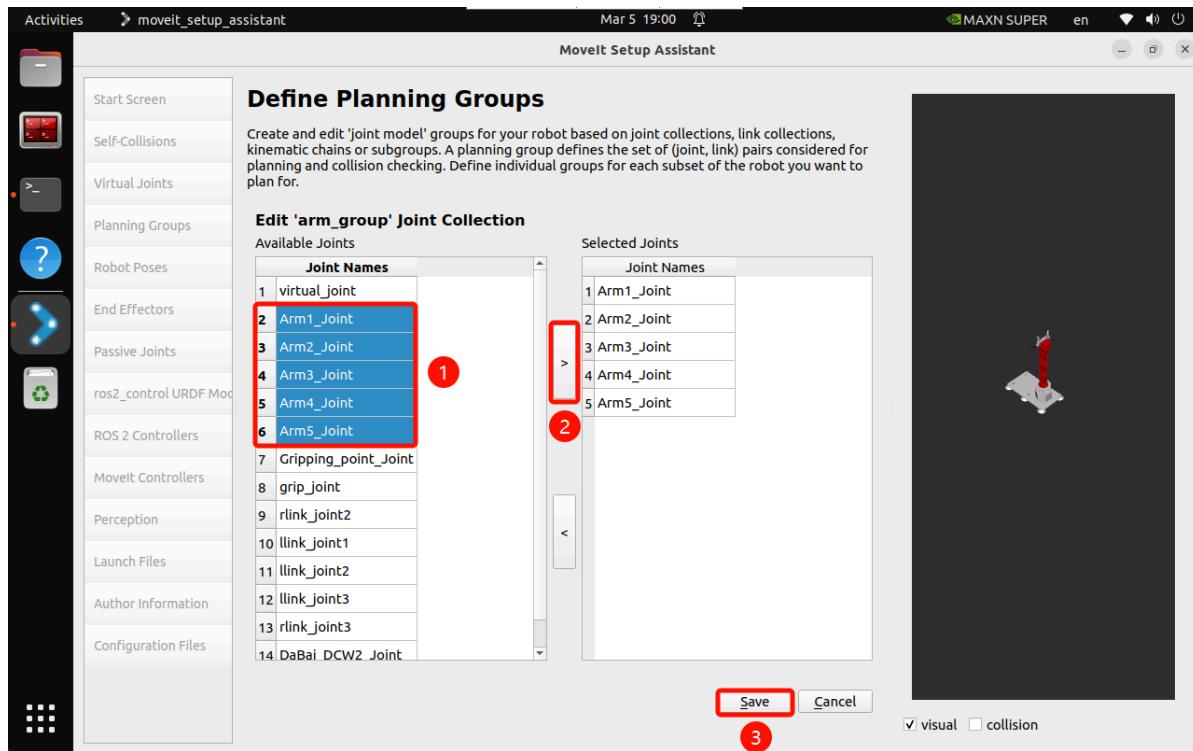


- Planning robot arm group: arm_group
 - Group Name: arm_group
 - Kinematic Solver: kdl_kinematics_plugin/KDLKinematicsPlugin
 - Kin. Search Resolution (sampling density of joint space): 0.005
 - Kin. Search Timeout (solution time): 0.005

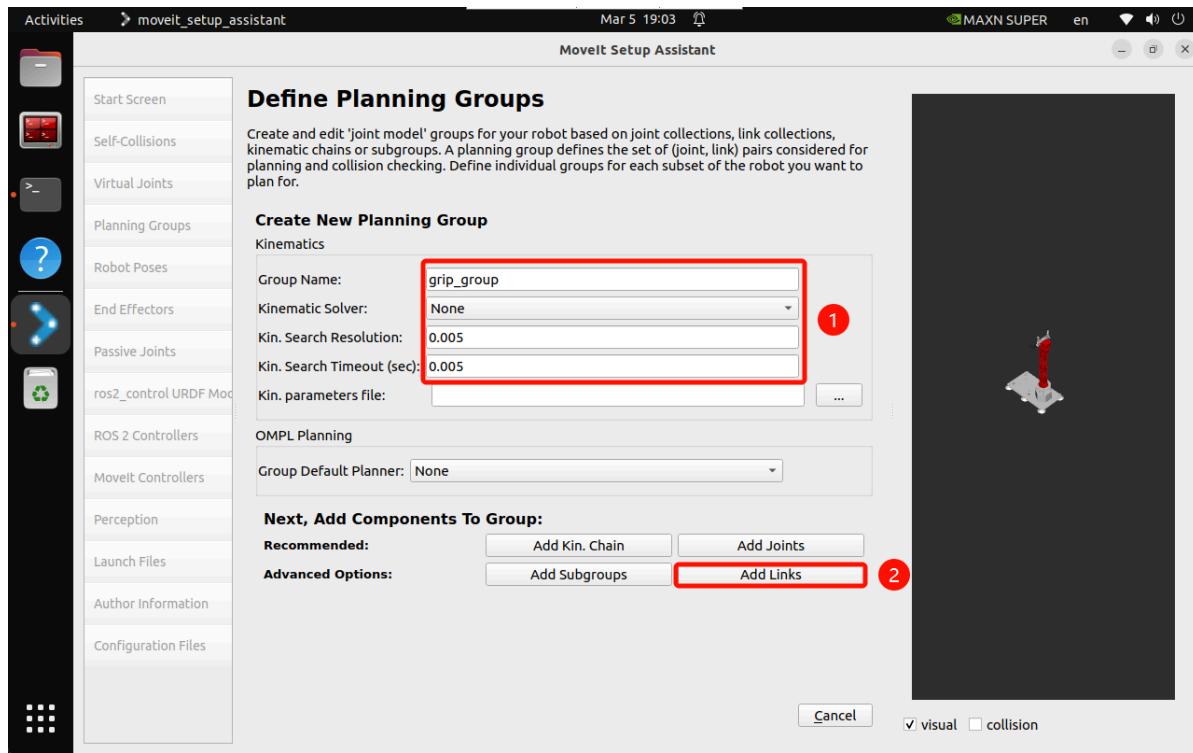


- Add Joints: Select the joints of the robot arm

Joints: Arm1_Joint, Arm2_Joint, Arm3_Joint, Arm4_Joint, Arm5_Joint

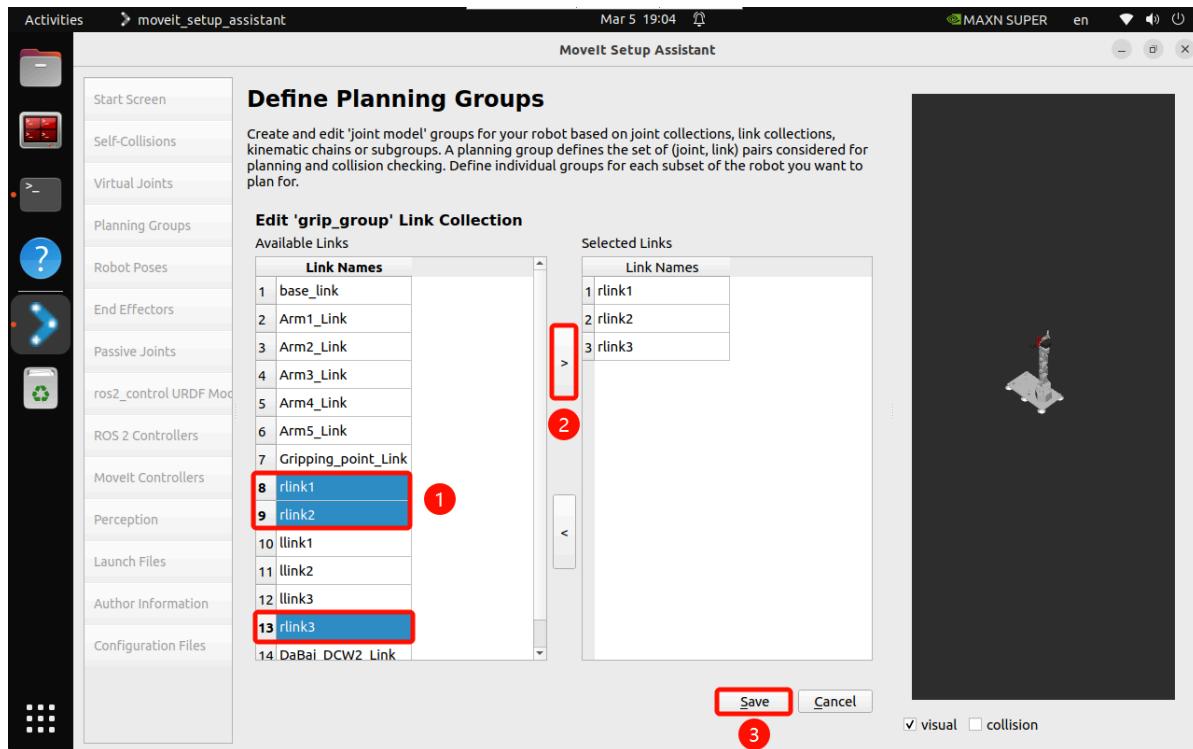


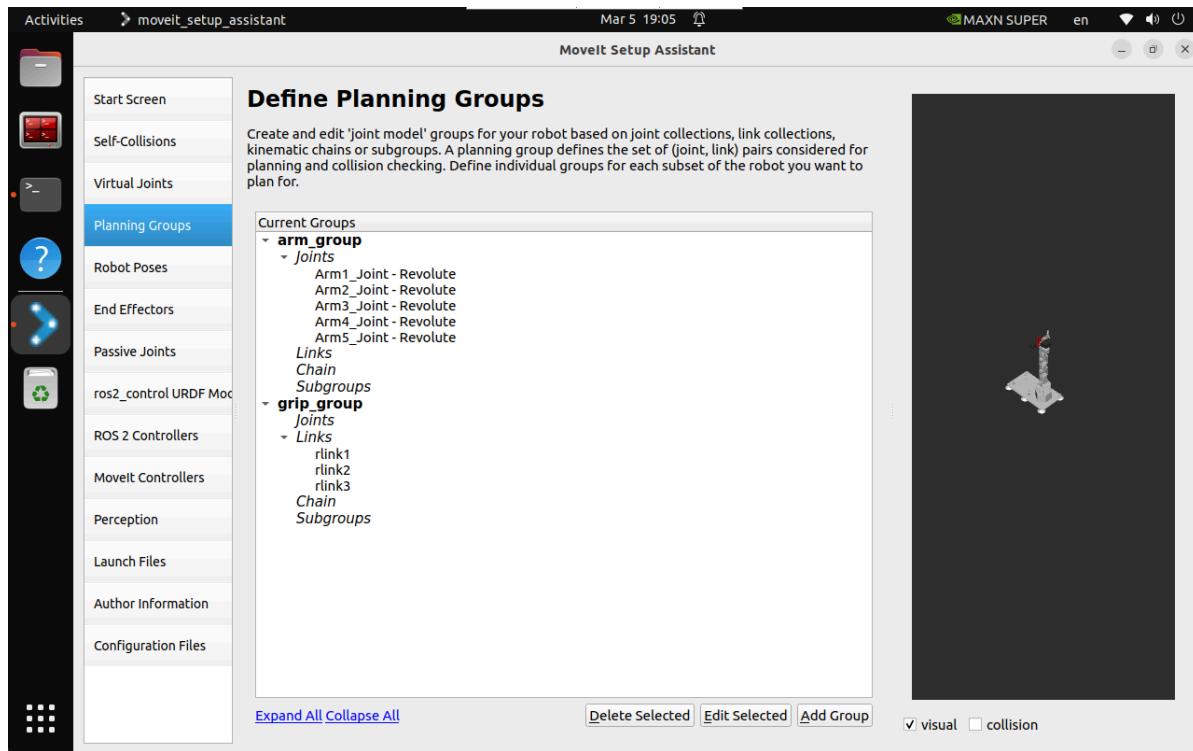
- Planning gripper group: grip_group
 - Group Name: grip_group
 - Kinematic Solver: None
 - Kin. Search Resolution: 0.005
 - Kin. Search Timeout: 0.005



- Add Links: Select the connecting rod of the gripper

Links: rlink1, rlink2, rlink3

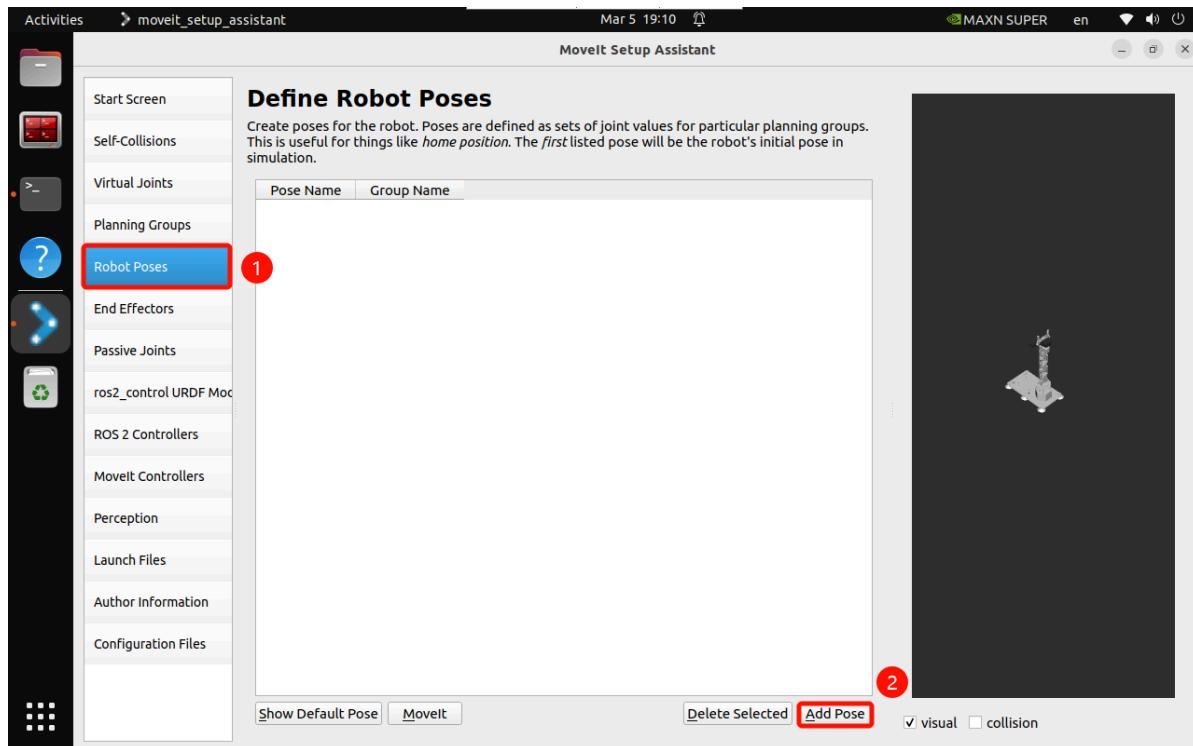




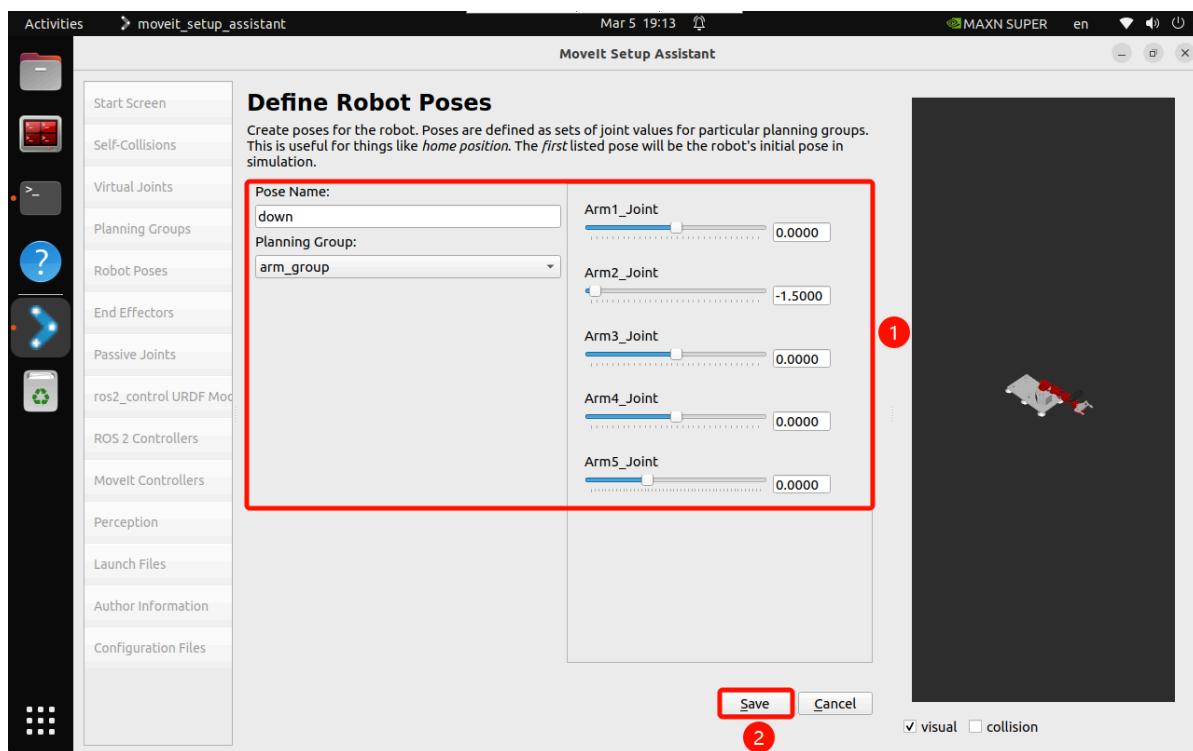
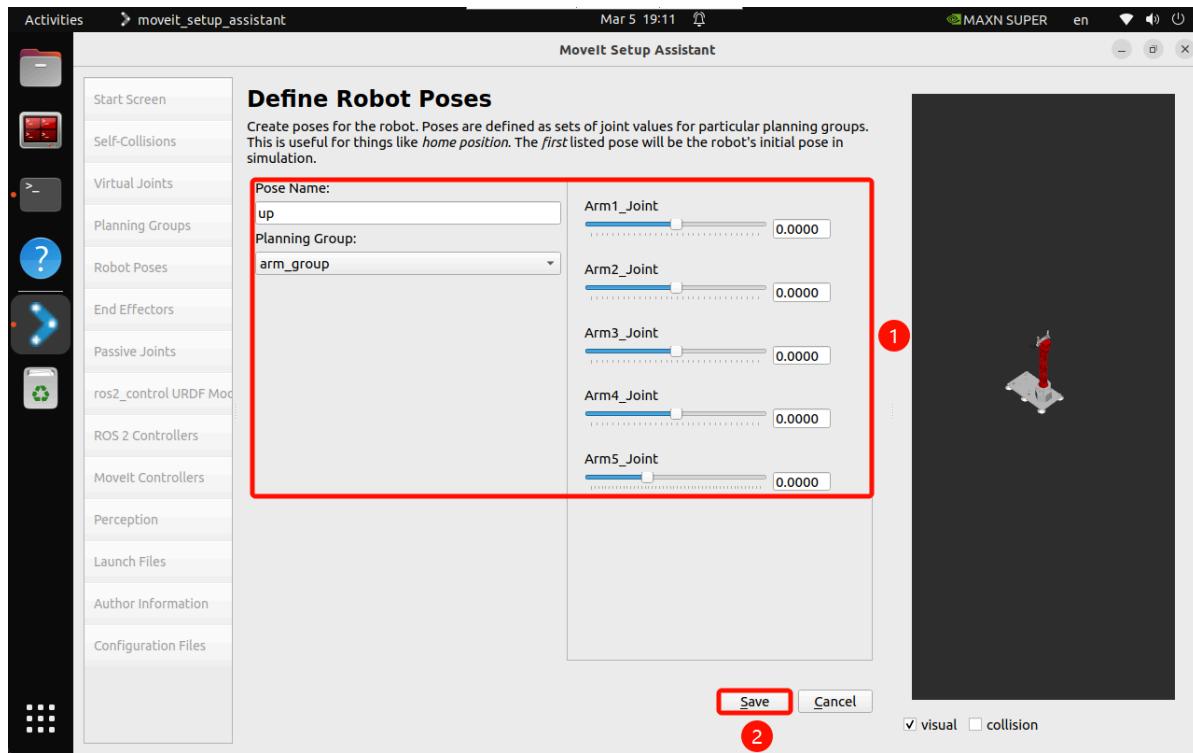
2.5. Robot position

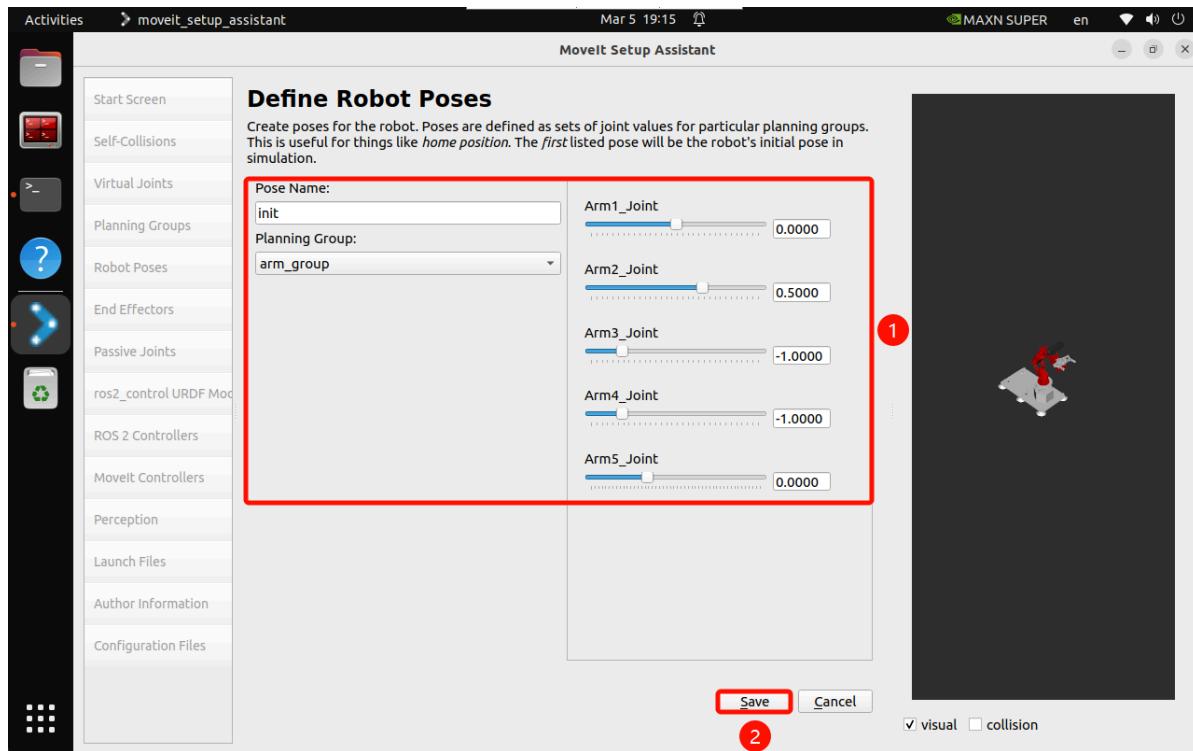
Robot arm position

Set three sets of robot arm predefined postures to the robot configuration:



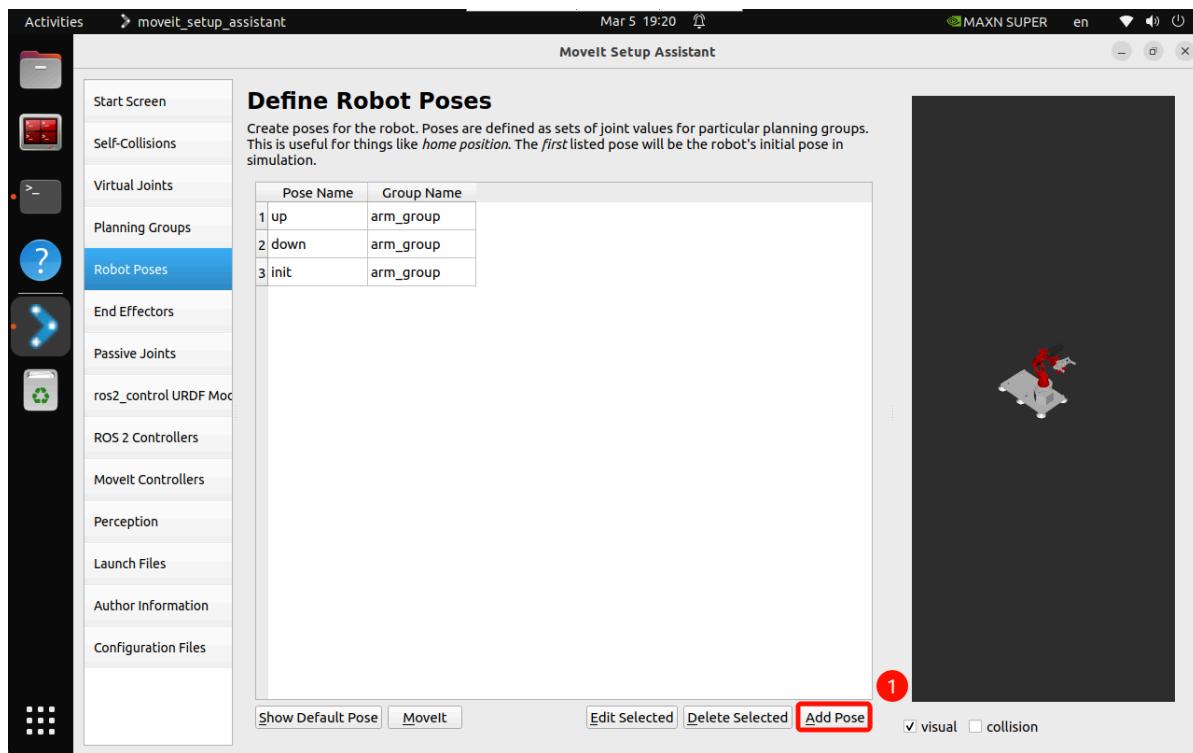
You can manually move the slider to set the state of each joint: up, down, init



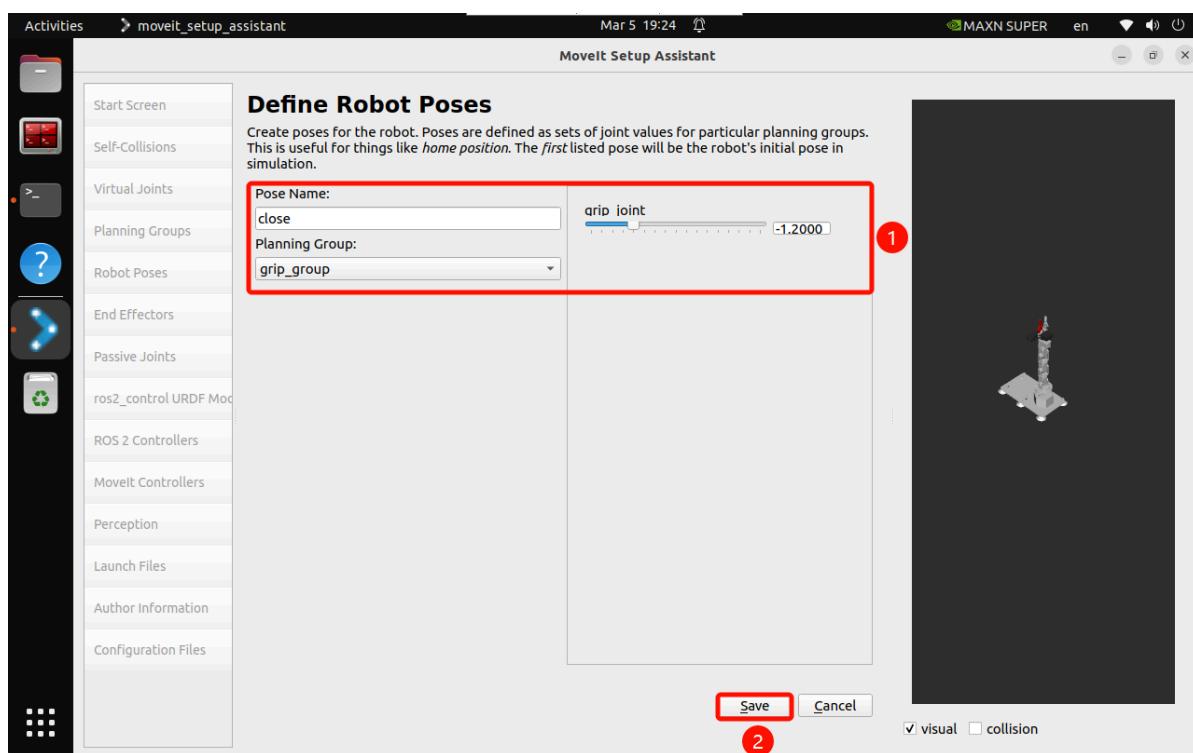
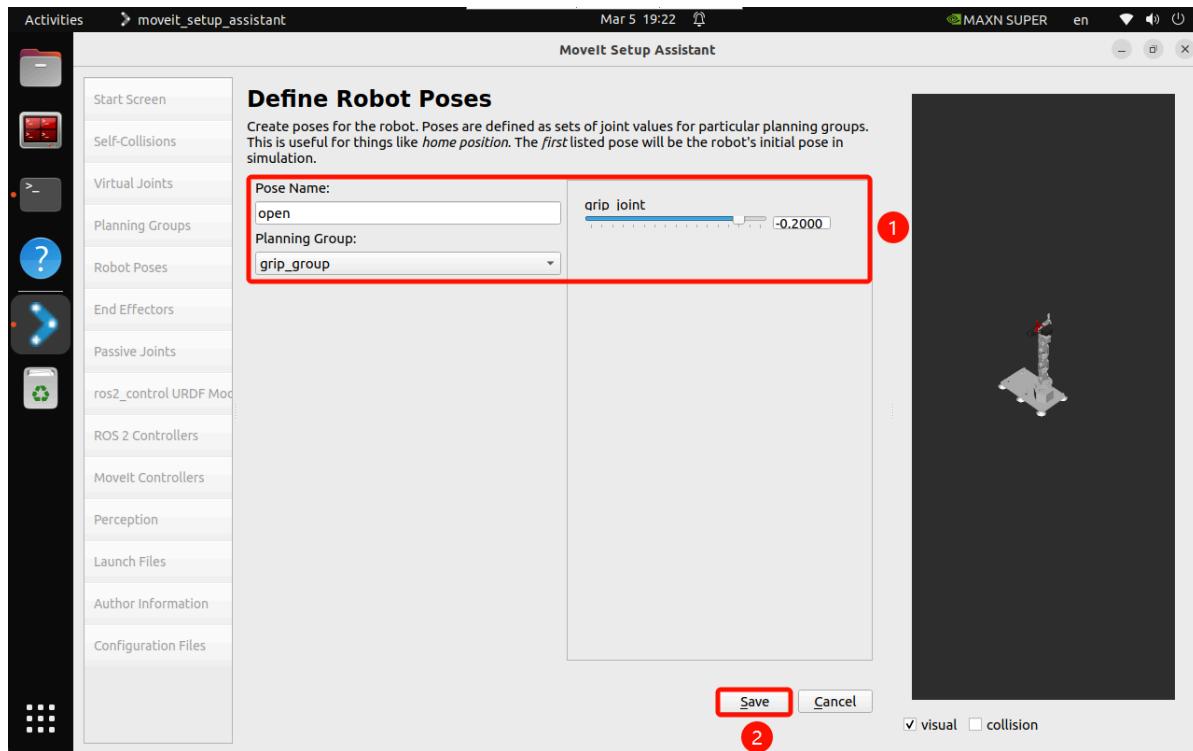


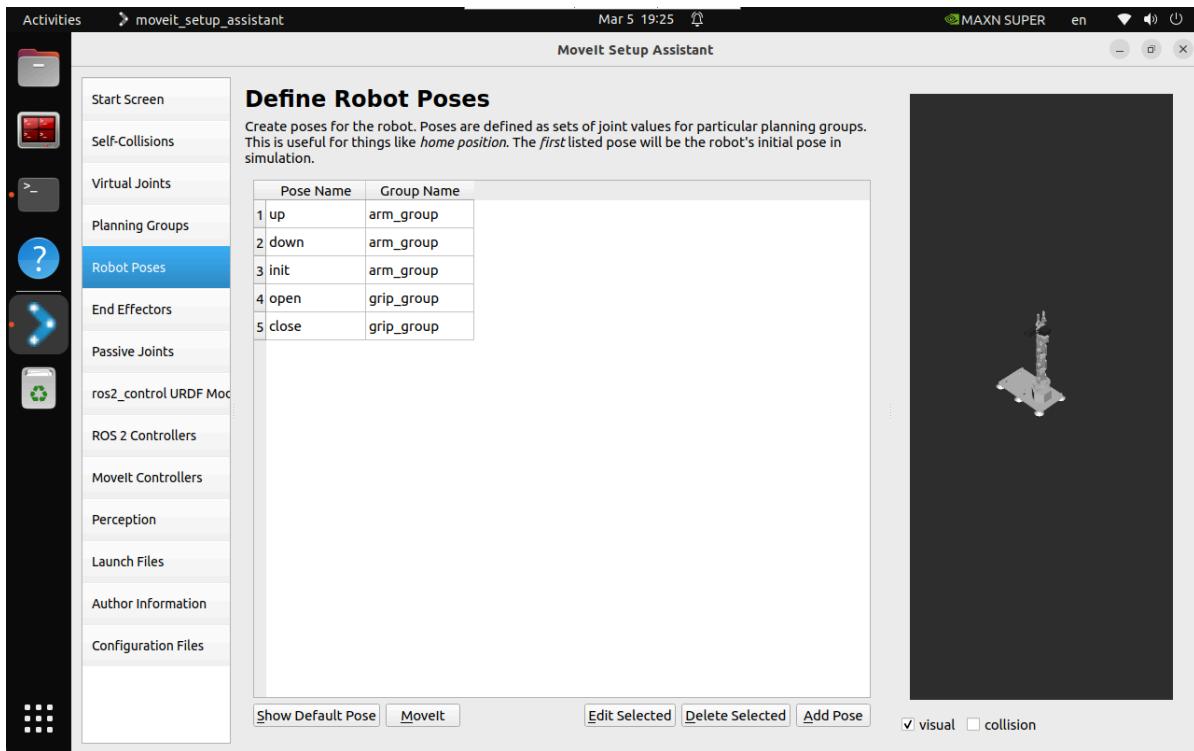
Jaw Position

Set two sets of predefined gripper poses to the robot configuration:



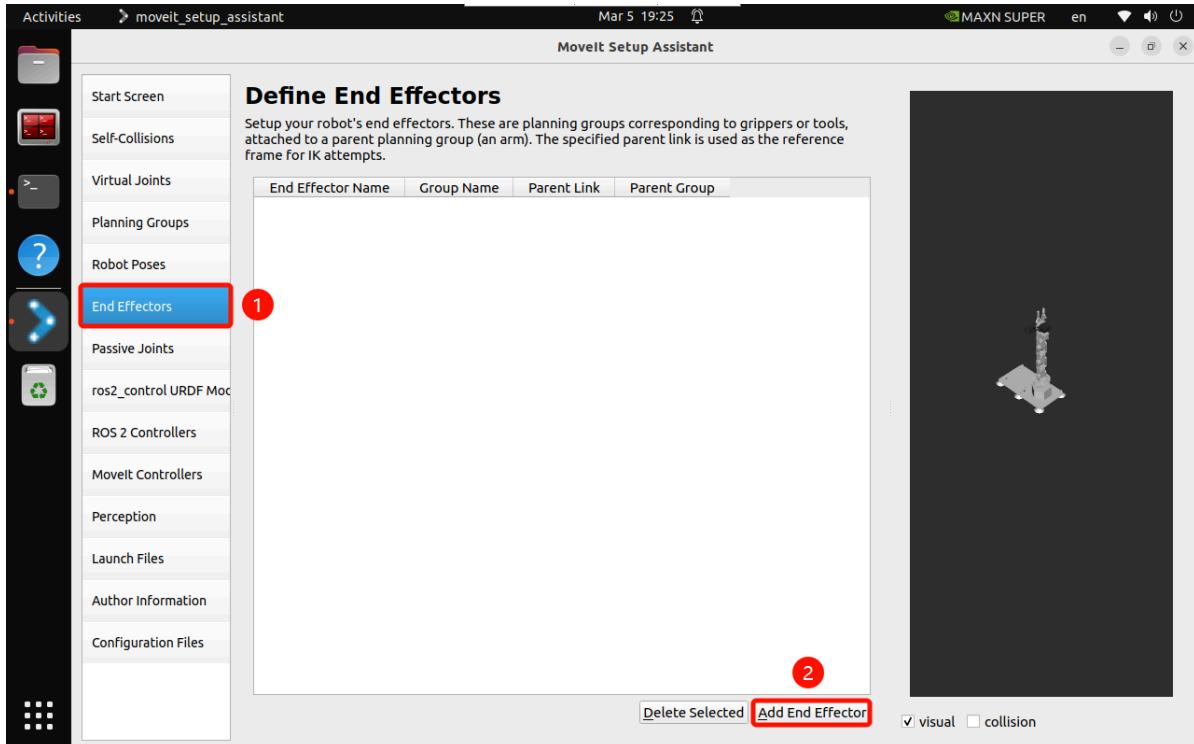
You can manually move the slider to set the gripper state: open, close





2.6. End effector

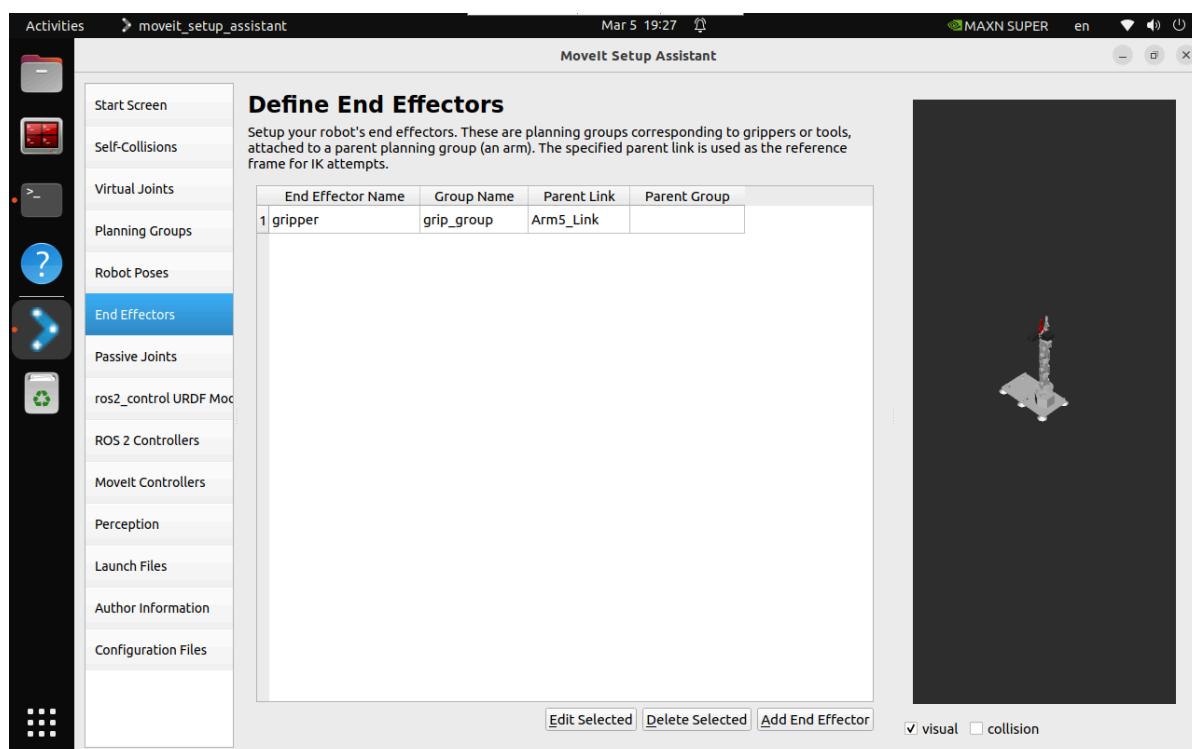
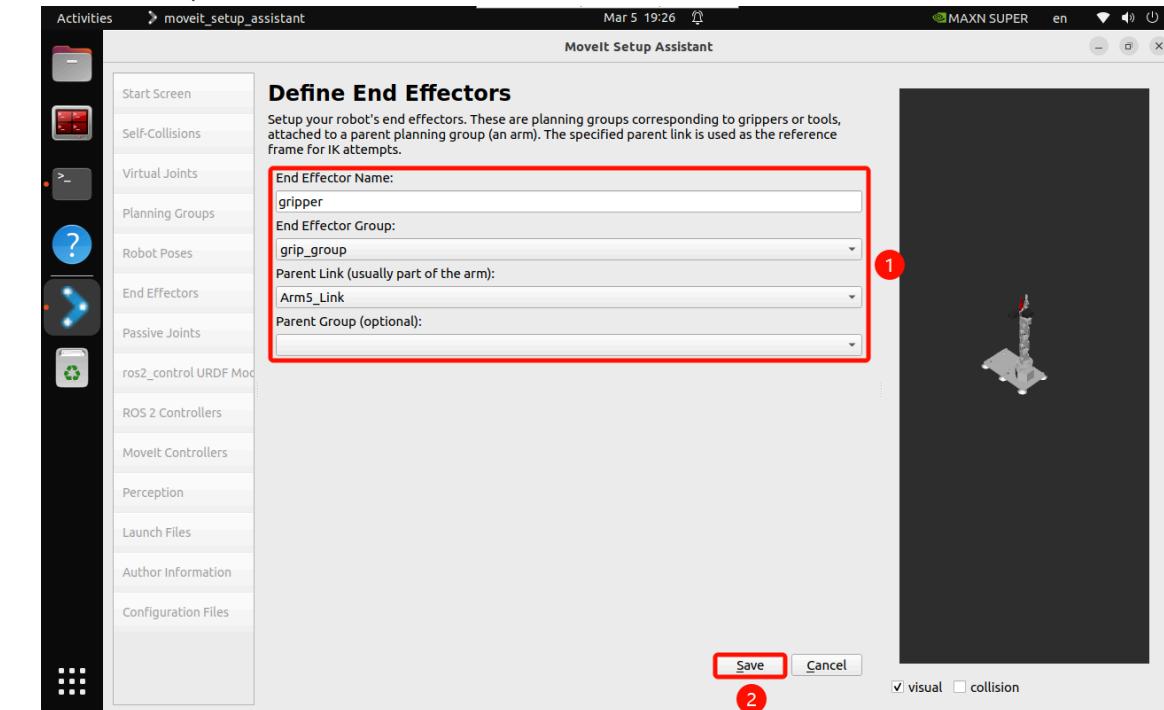
Set the gripper group as the end effector:



End Effector: gripper

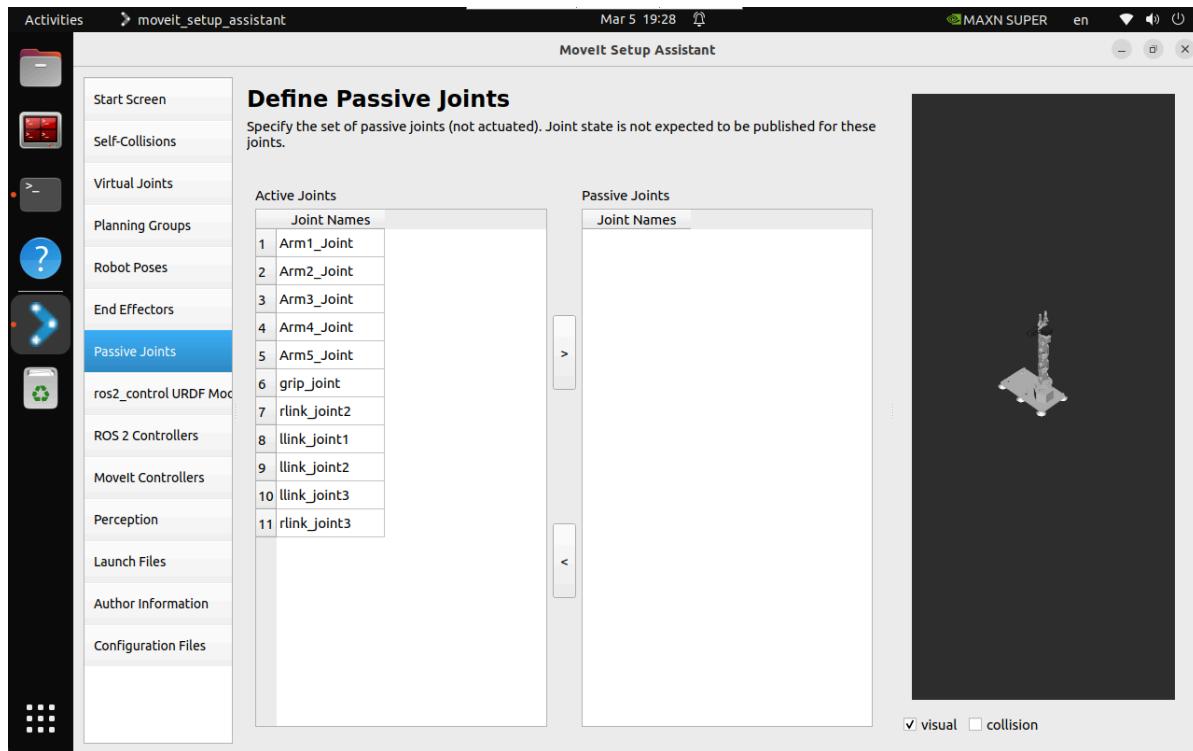
- End Effector Name: gripper
- End Effector Group: grip_group
- Parent Link: Arm5_Link

- Parent Group: None



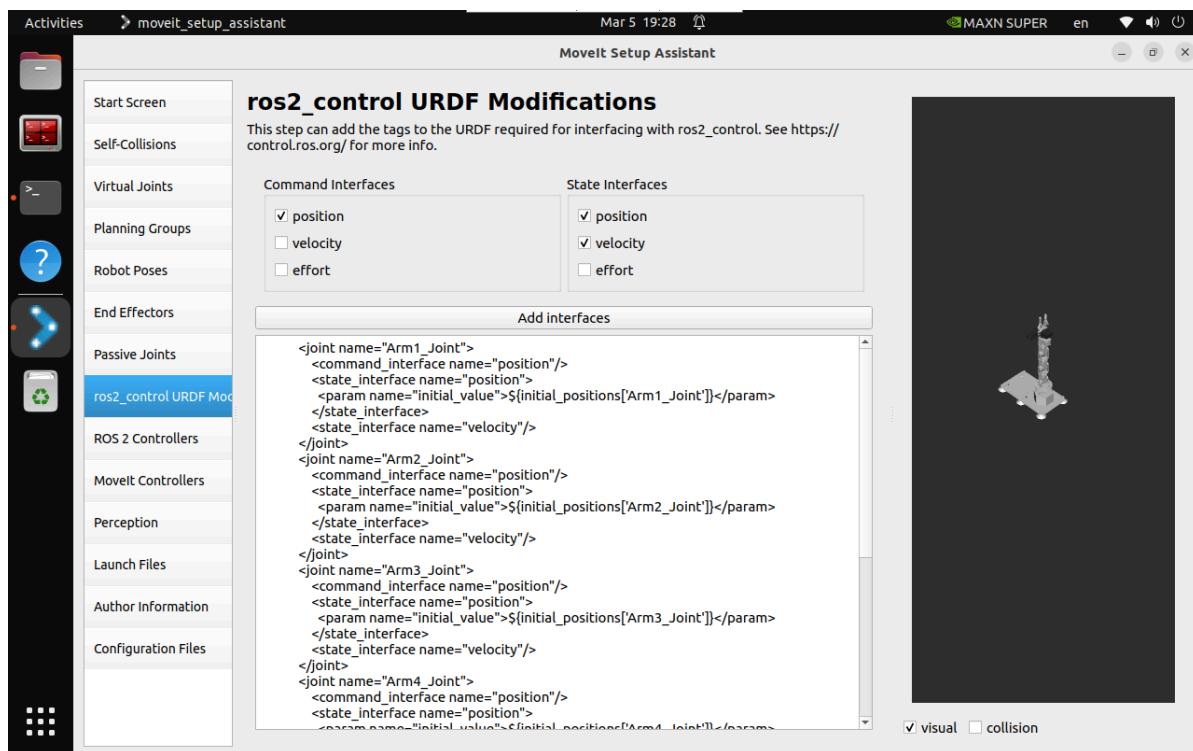
2.7 Passive joints

Passive joints are non-actuated joints that cannot be directly controlled: if the robot arm does not have passive joints, it will be skipped directly.



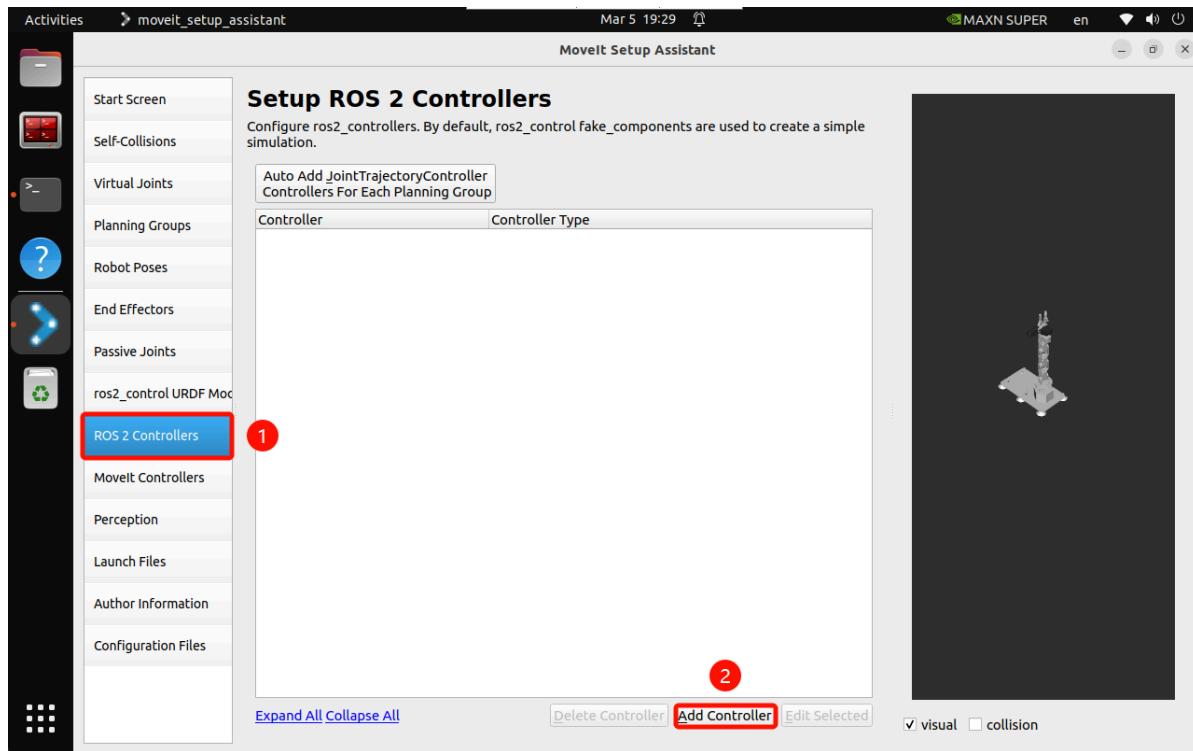
2.8, URDF file

MoveIt Setup Assistant will automatically set up the command interface and status interface for each joint: use the default generated information.



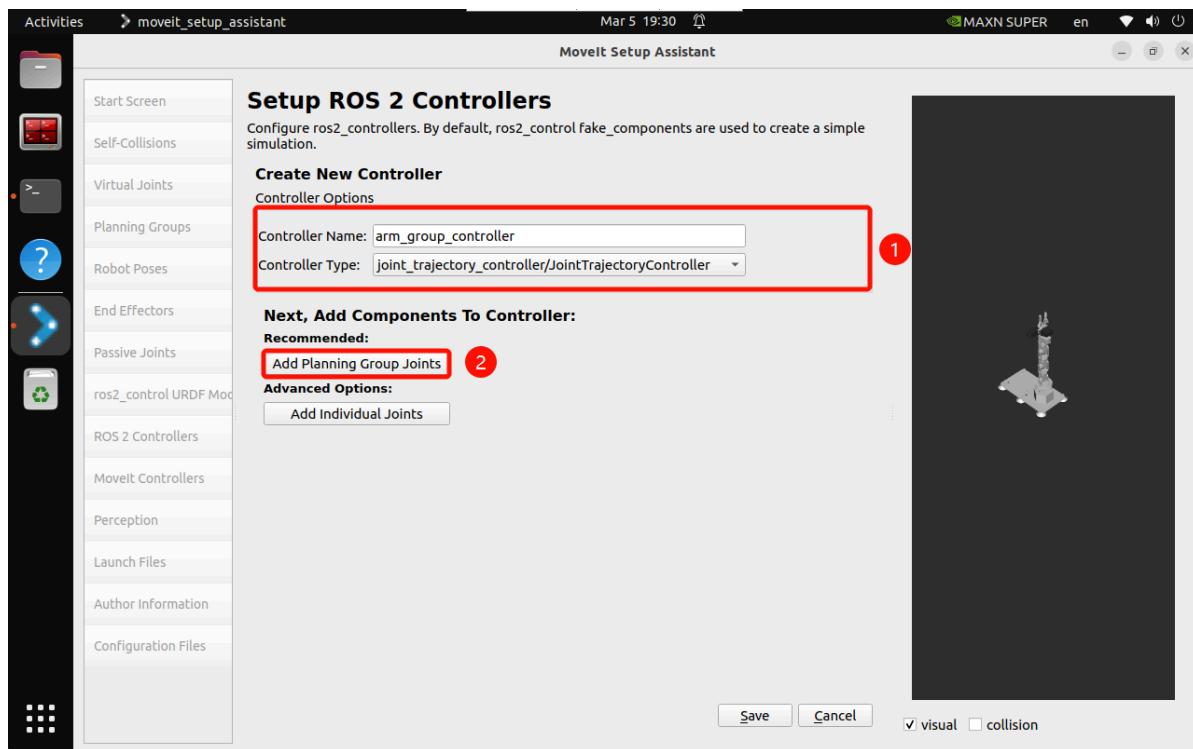
2.9, ROS2 Controllers

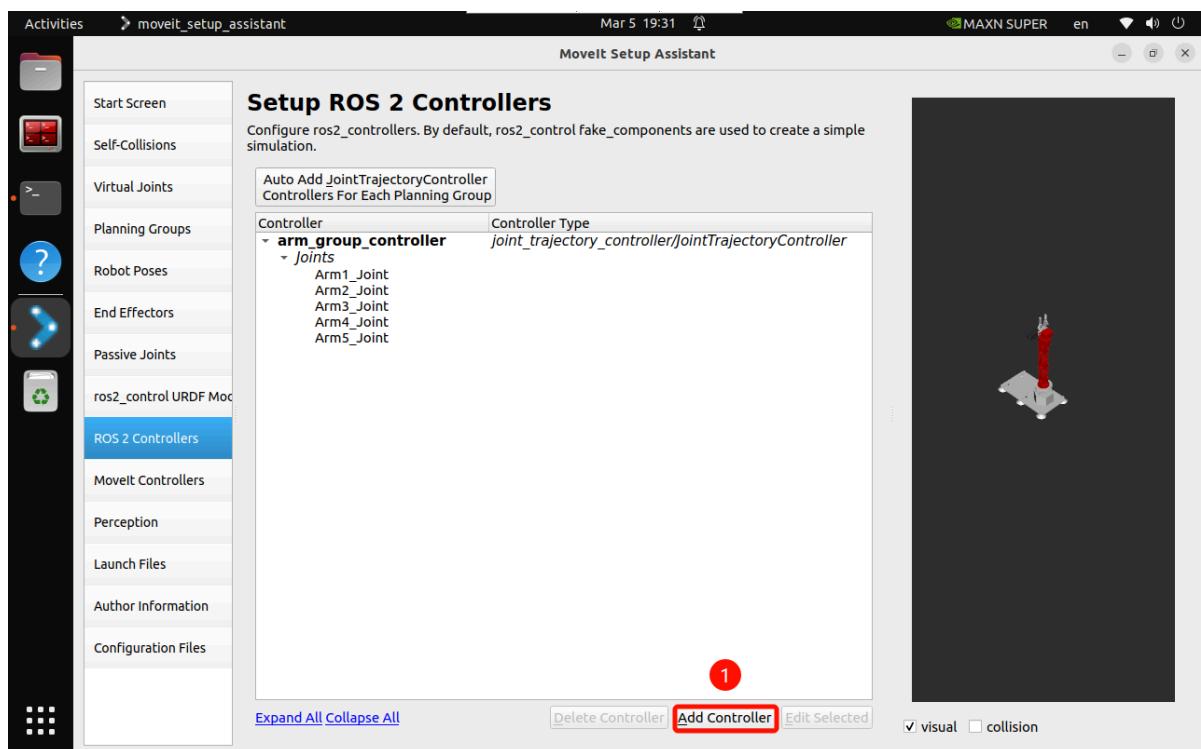
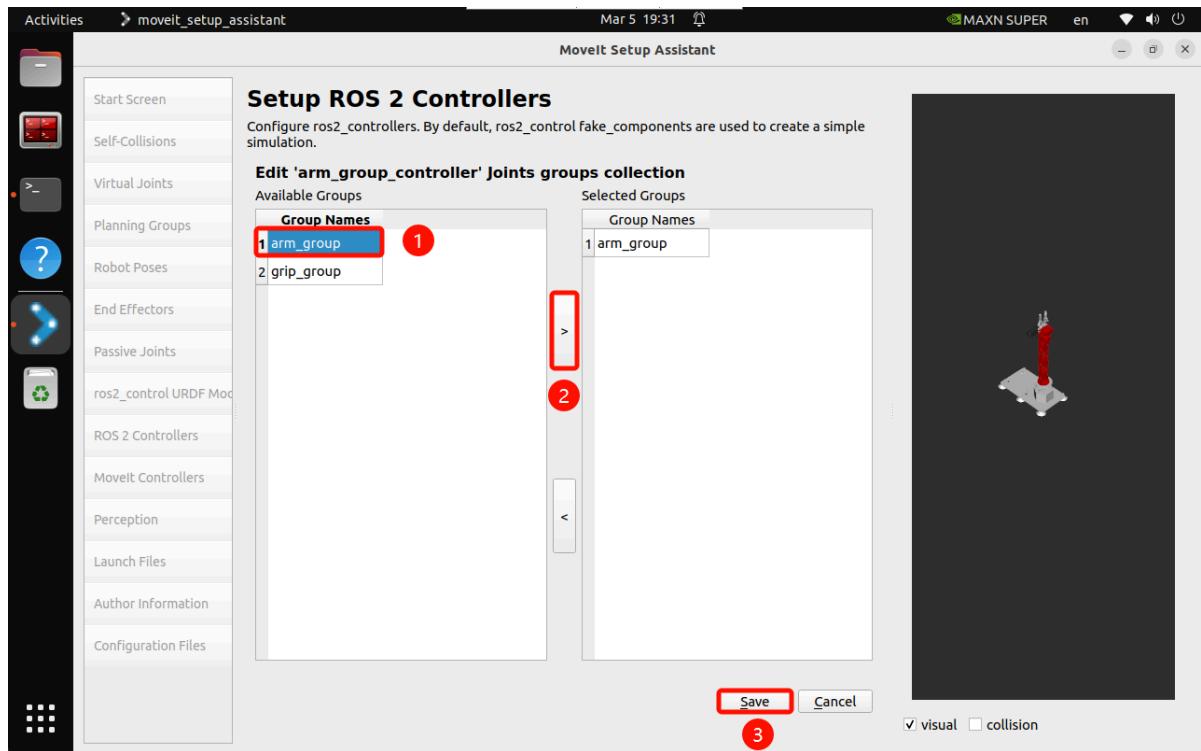
ROS2 Controllers is a framework for real-time robot control, which can be used to automatically generate simulation controllers to drive robot joints.



Add a robotic arm controller:

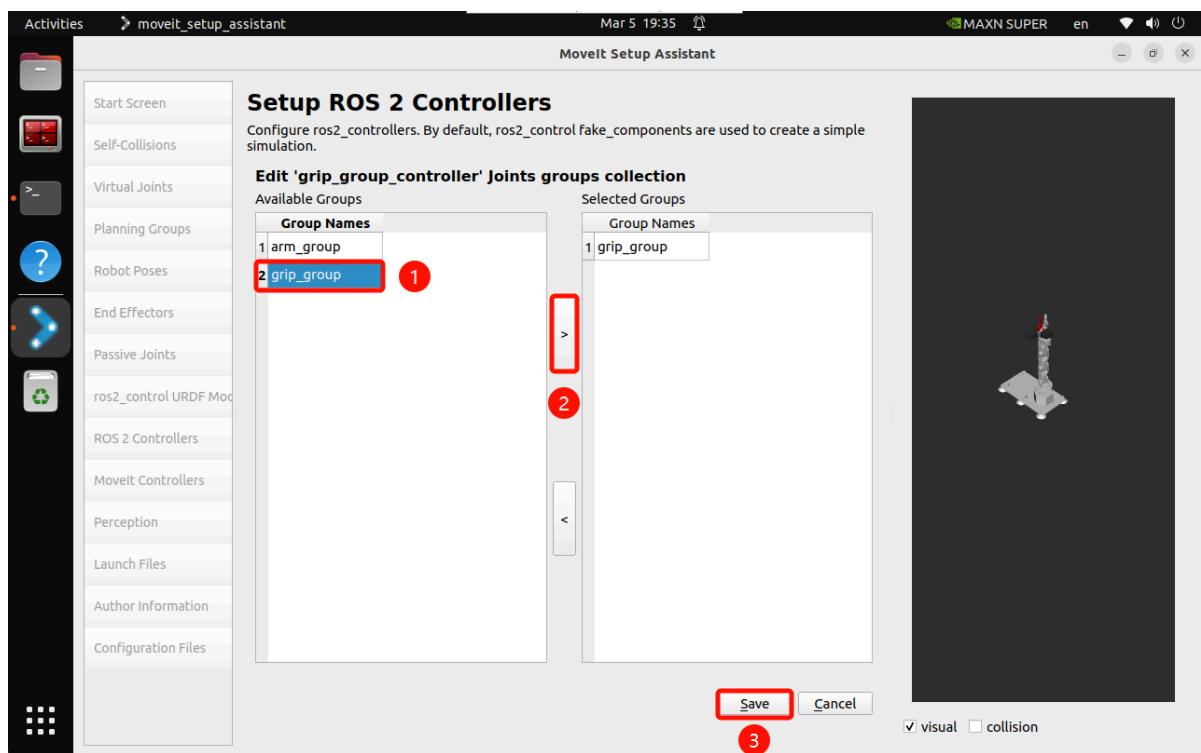
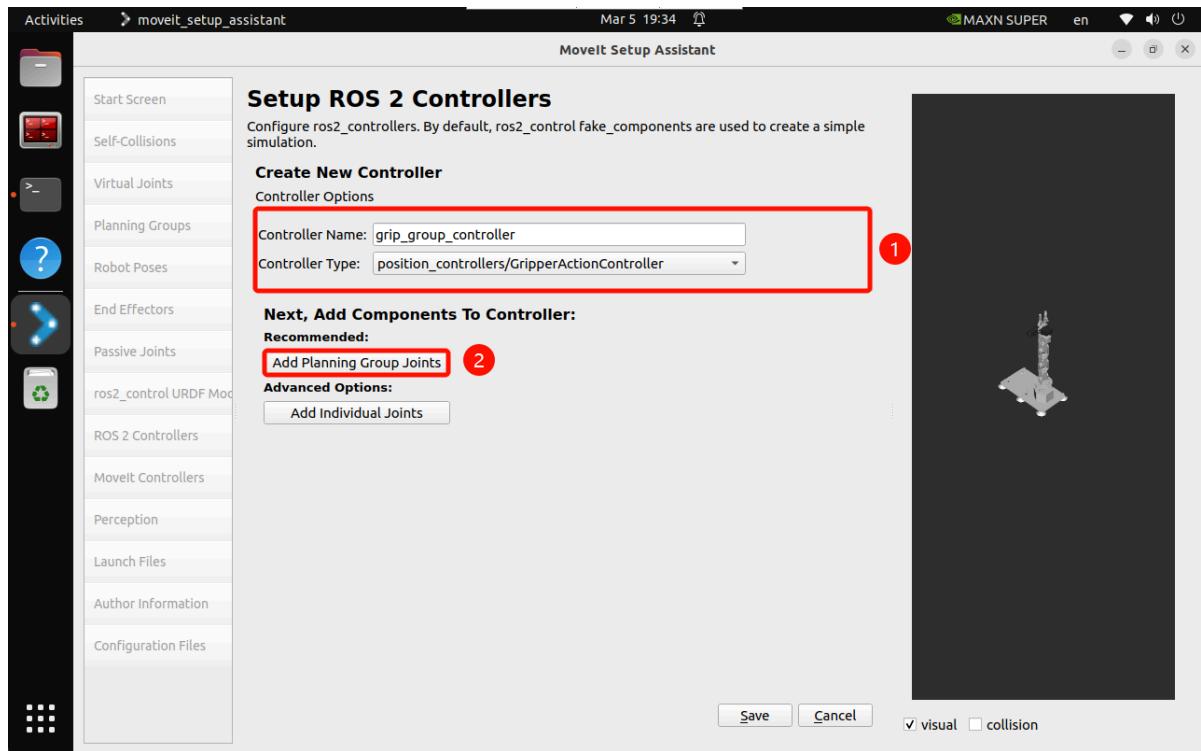
- Controller Name: arm_group_controller
- Controller Type: joint_trajectory_controller/JointTrajectoryController
- Add Planning Group Joints: arm_group

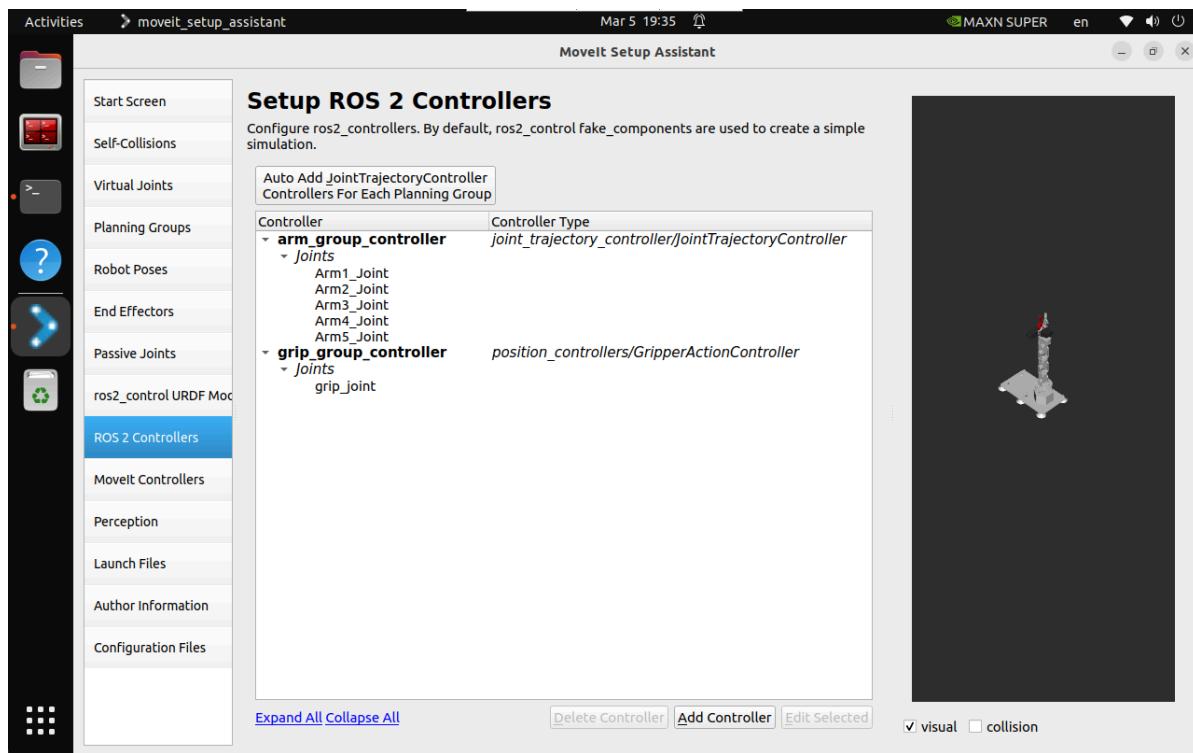




Add the gripper controller:

- Controller Name: grip_group_controller
- Controller Type: position_controllers/GripperActionController
- Add Planning Group Joints: grip_group

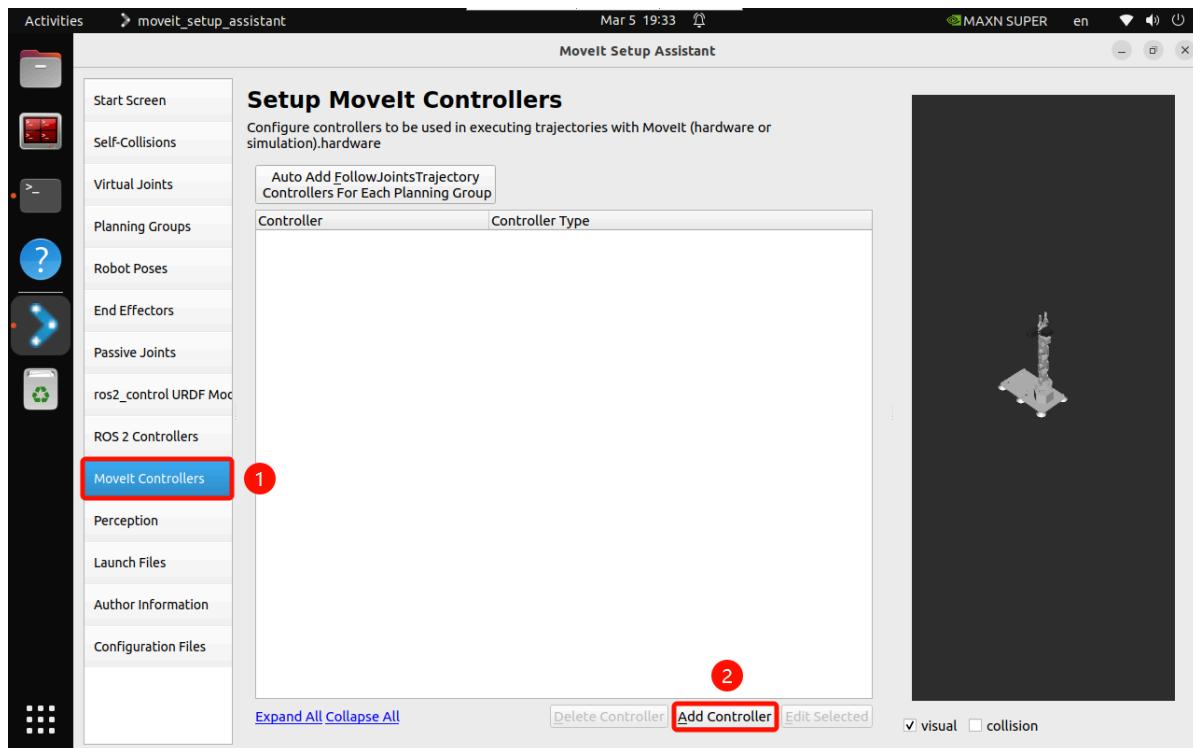




2.10, MoveIt Controllers

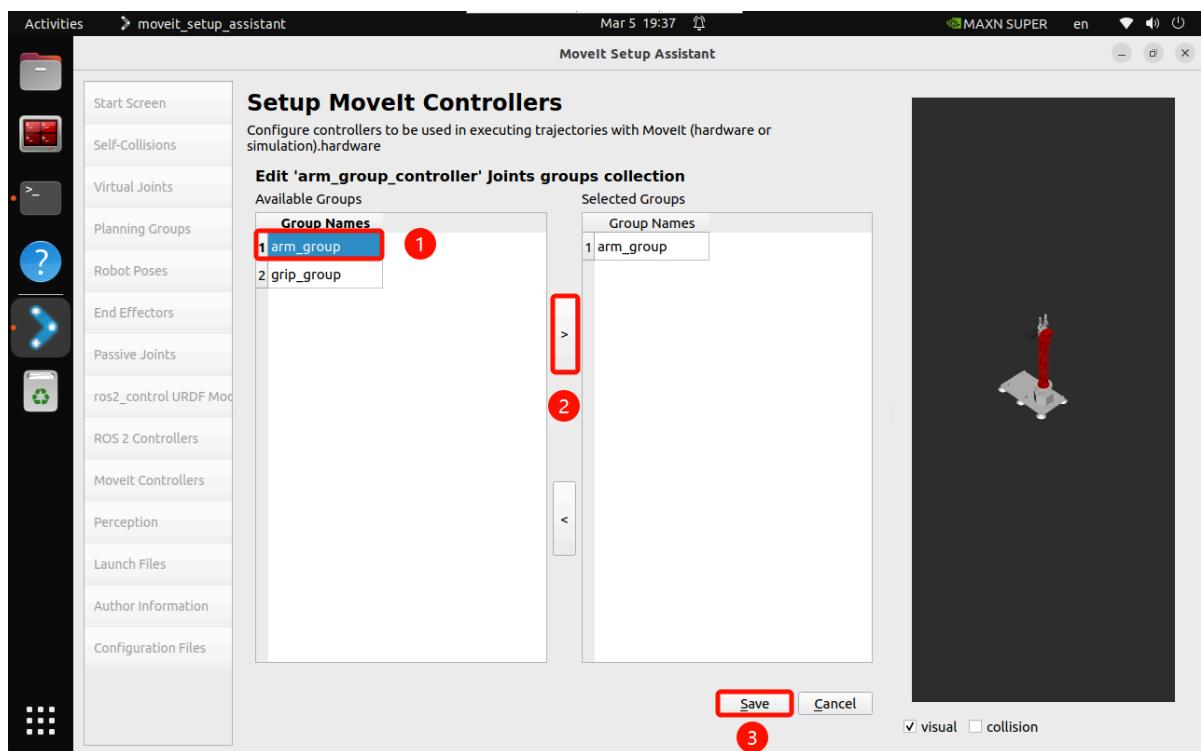
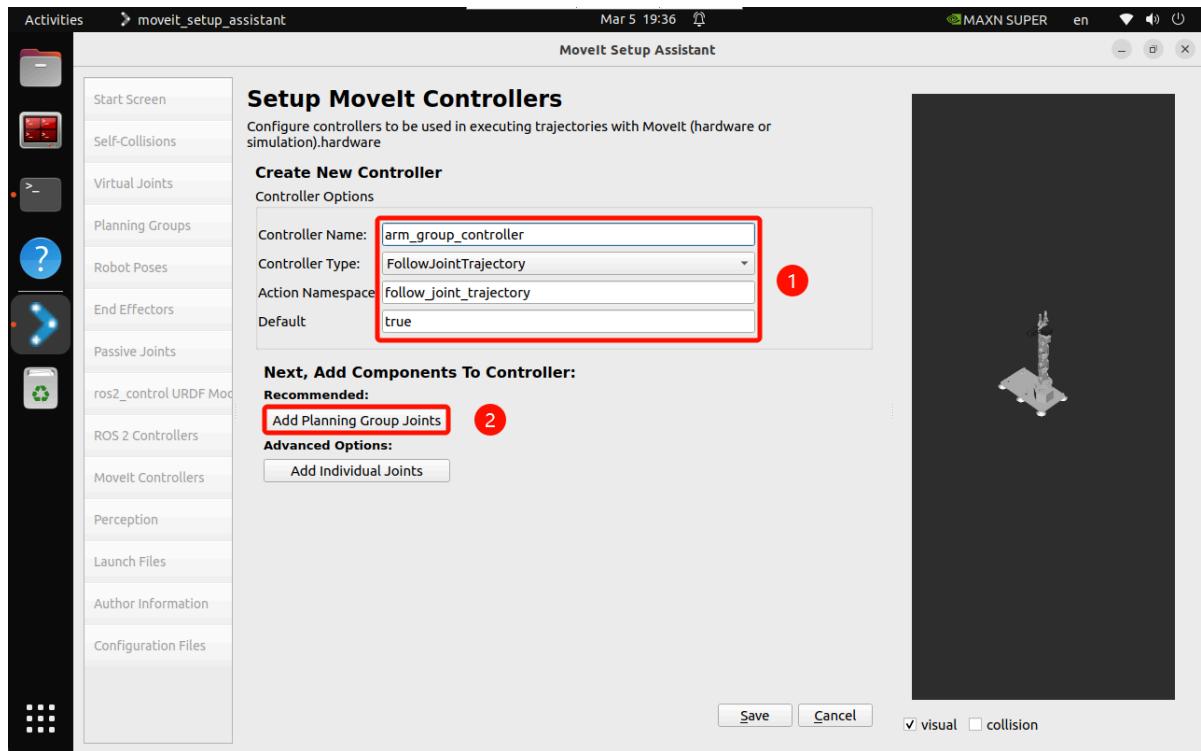
MoveIt requires a trajectory controller with the `FollowJointTrajectoryAction` interface to execute the planned trajectory, which sends the generated trajectory to the robot ROS2 controller.

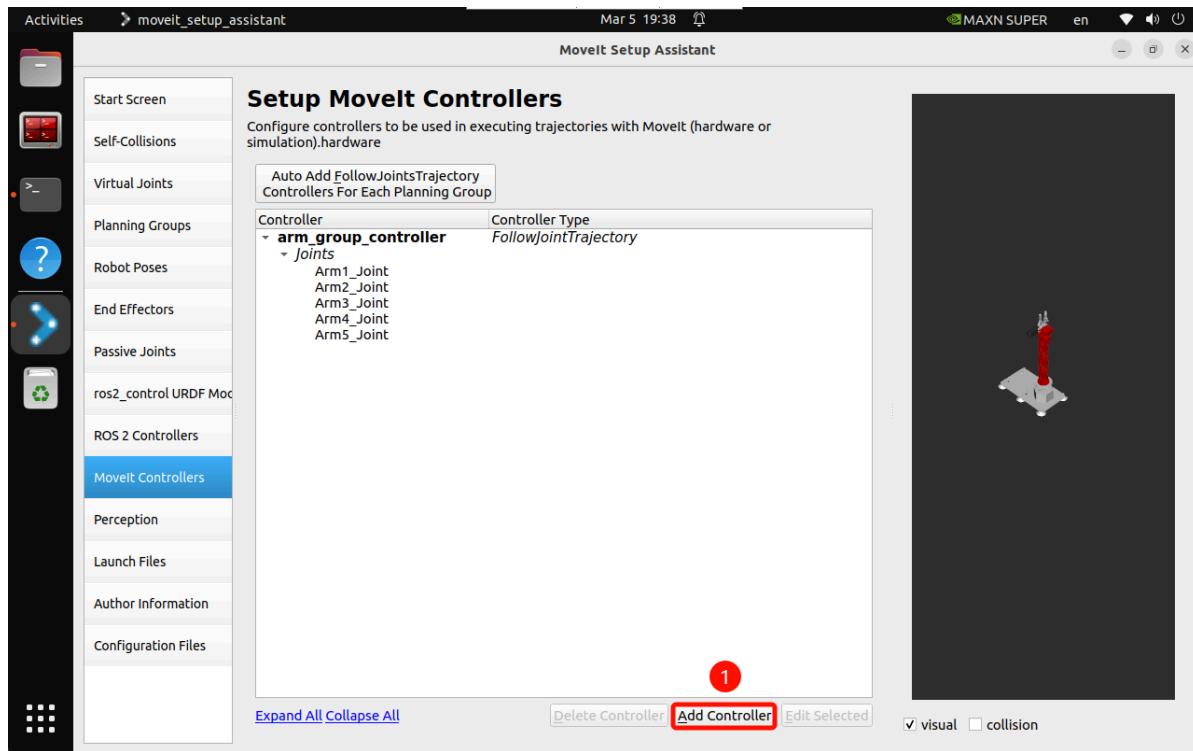
Added MoveIt Controllers need to ensure that the controller name matches the name configured in ROS2 Controllers.



Add a robotic arm controller:

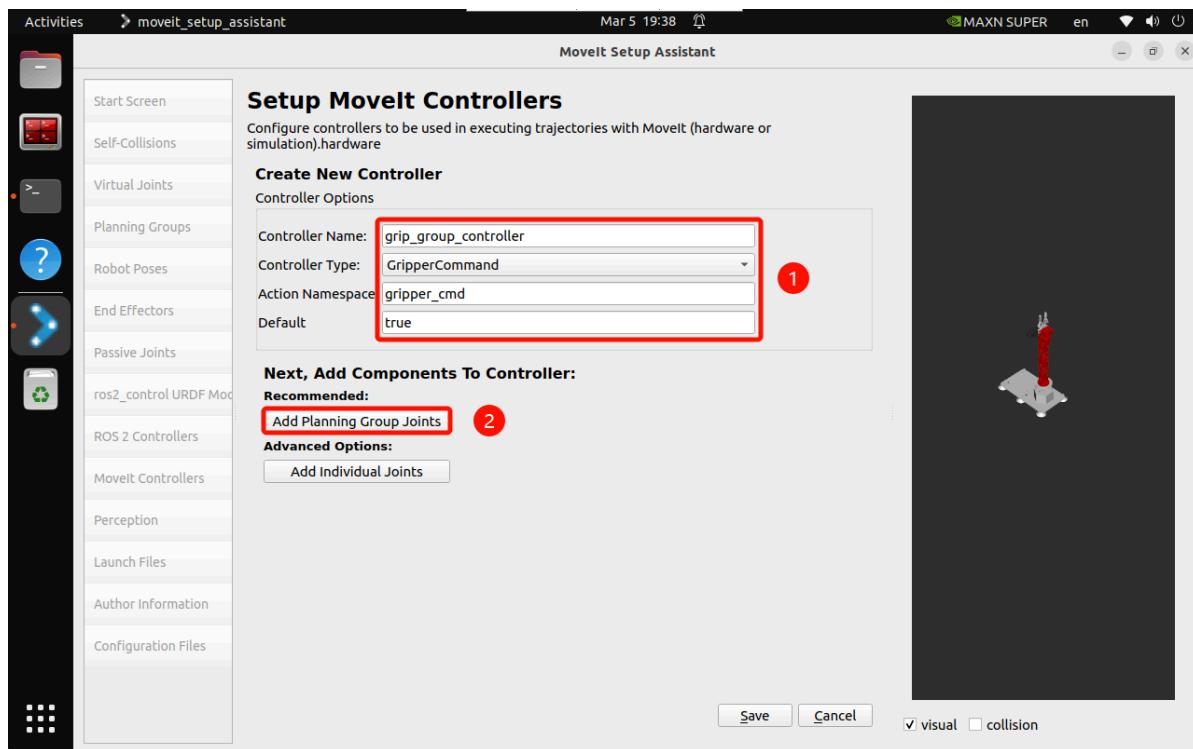
- Controller Name: `arm_group_controller`
- Controller Type: `FollowJointTrajectory`
- Add Planning Group Joints: `arm_group`

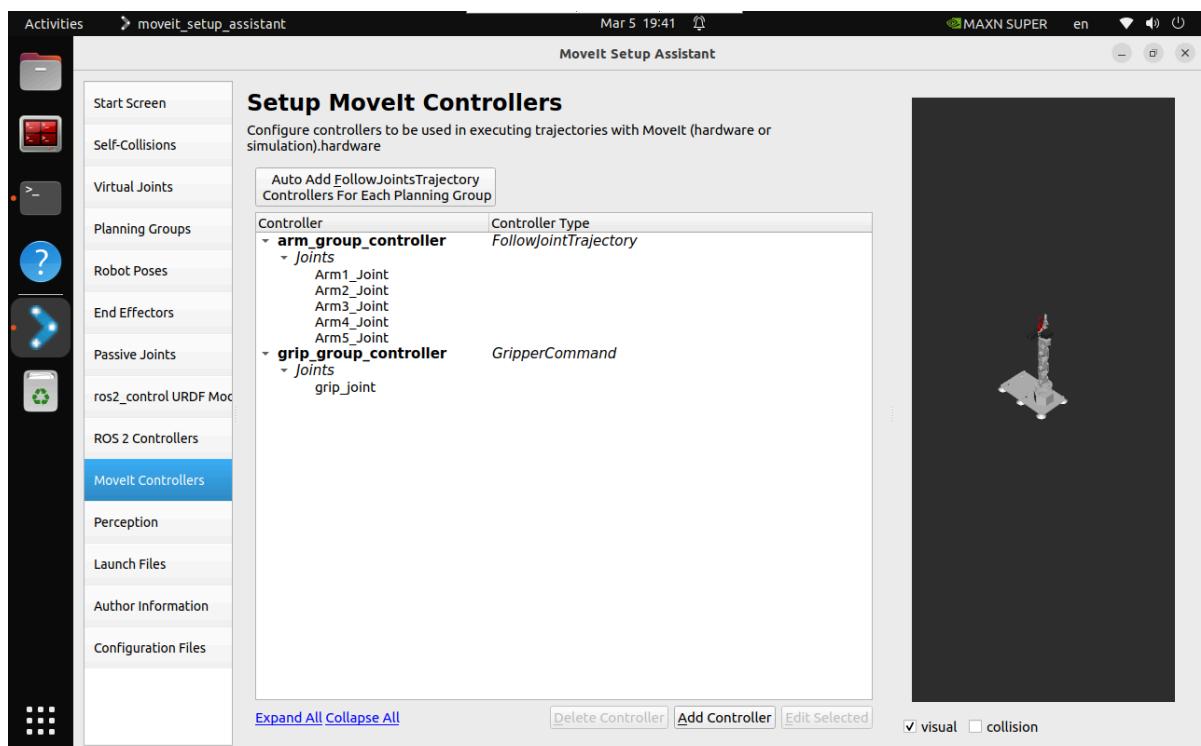
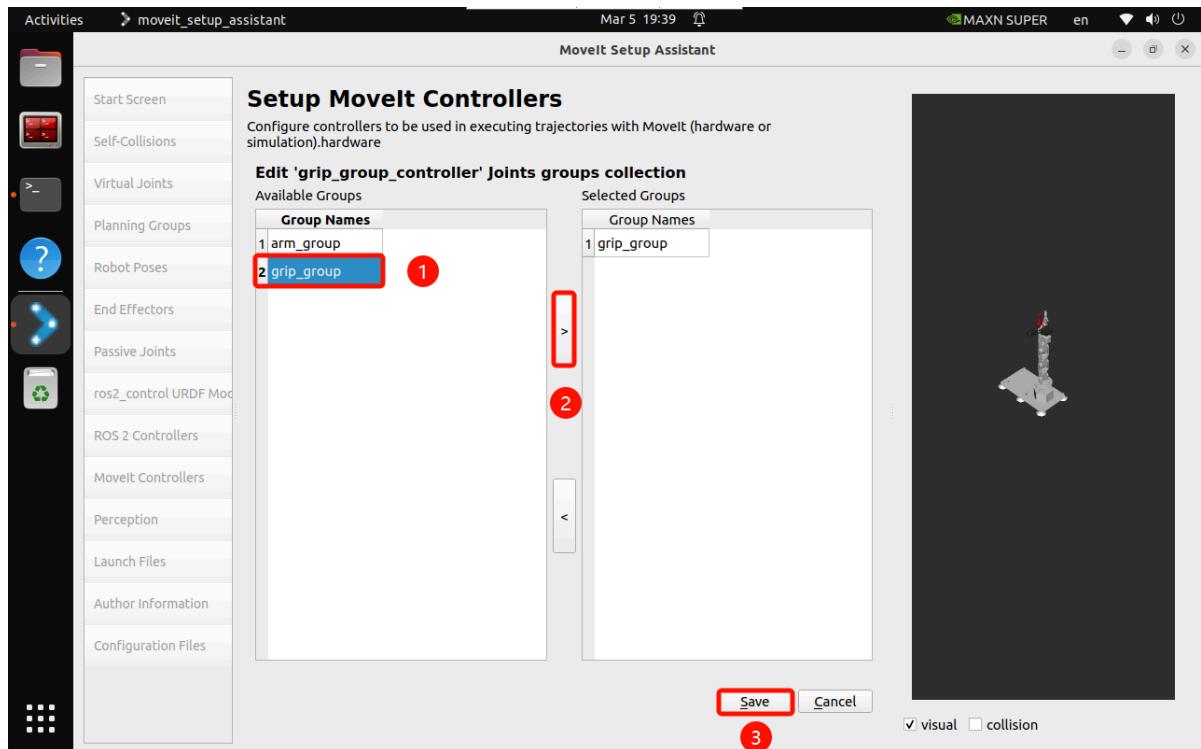




Add the gripper controller:

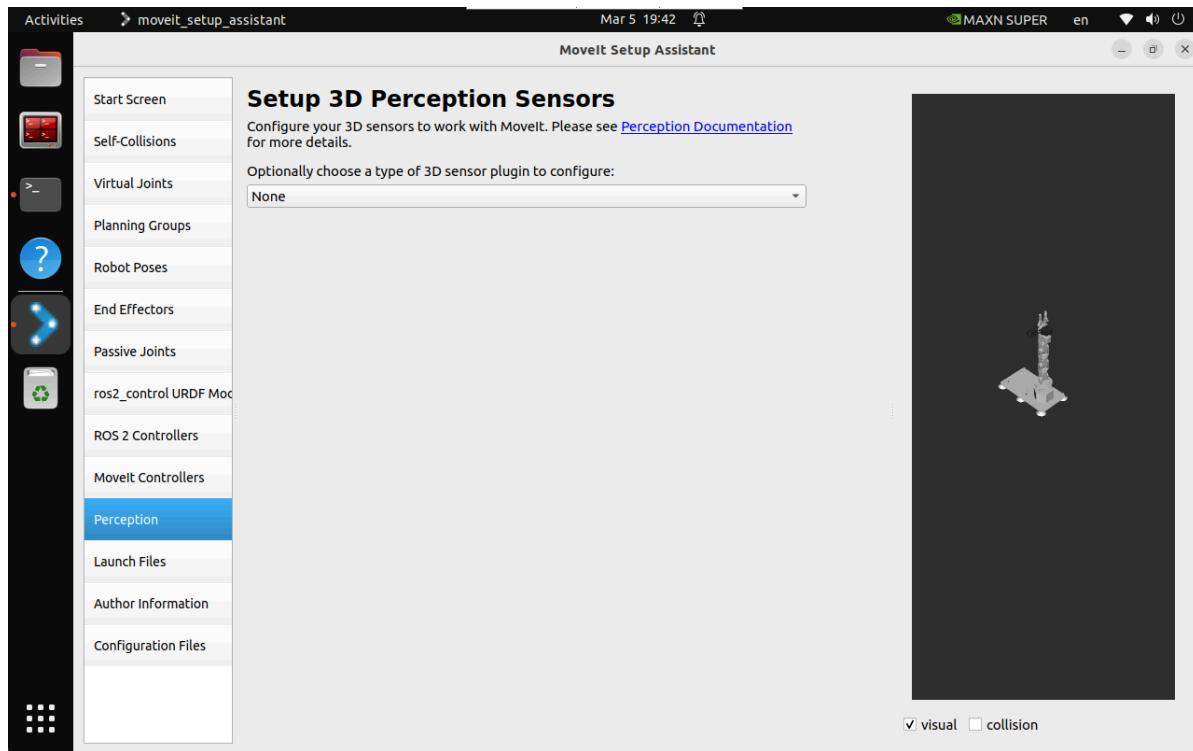
- Controller Name: grip_group_controller
- Controller Type: Gripper Command
- Add Planning Group Joints: grip_group





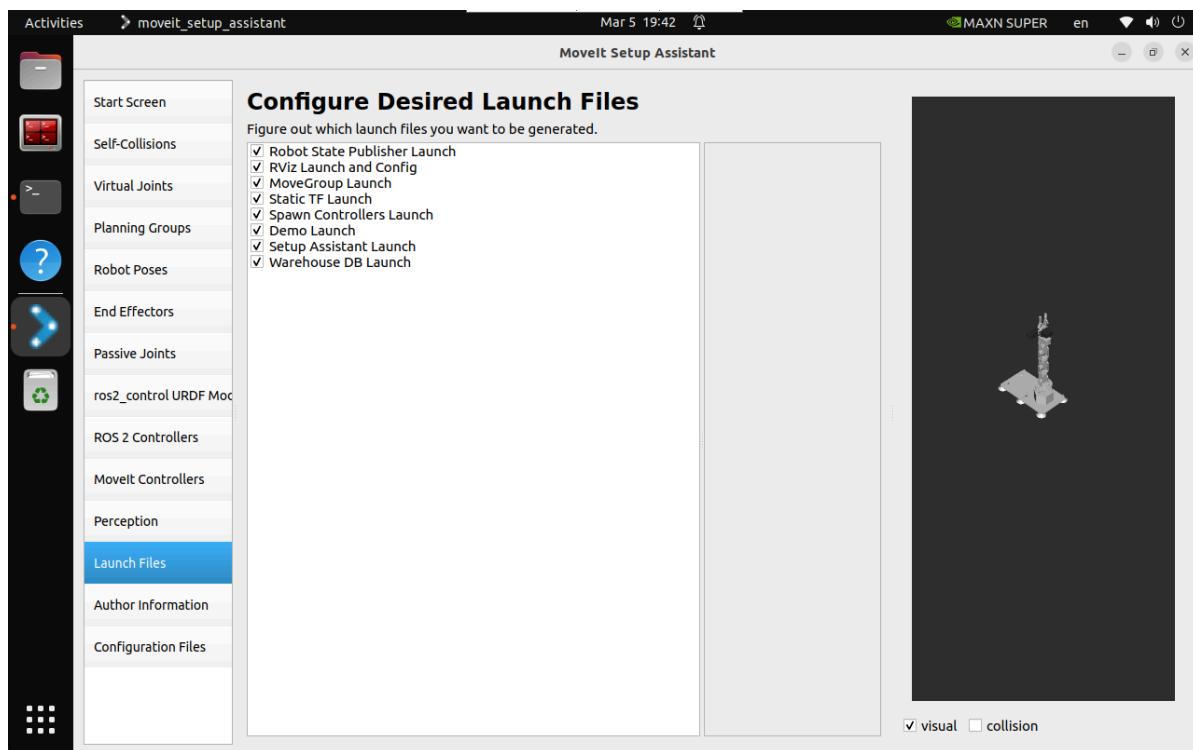
2.11. Sensors

Configure the settings of the 3D sensor used by the robot: No configuration is required.



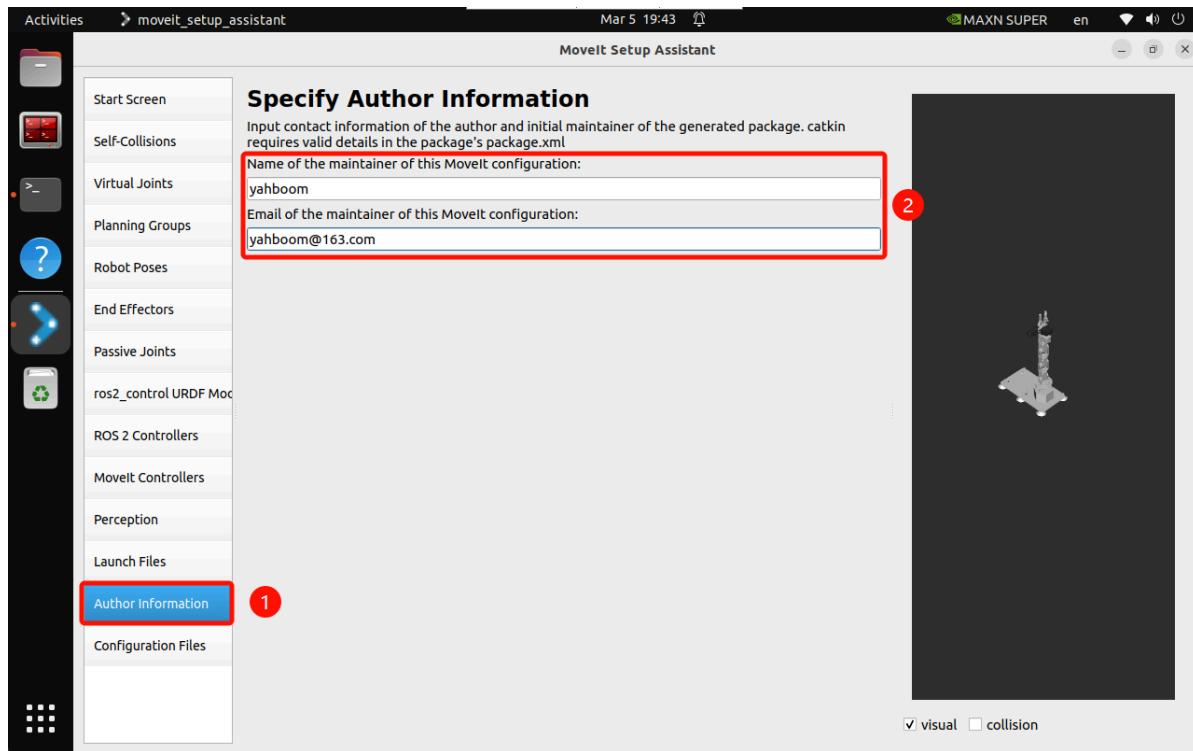
2.12, Startup file

Configure the automatically generated startup file: Use the default options.



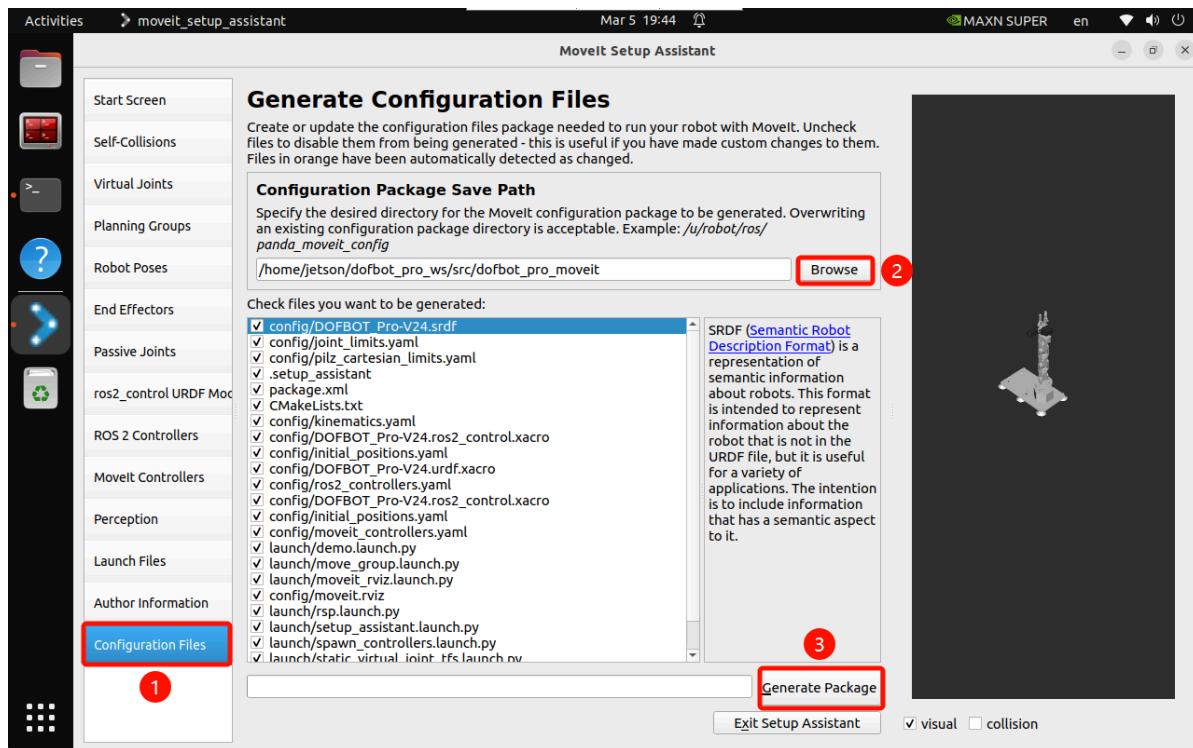
2.13, Author information

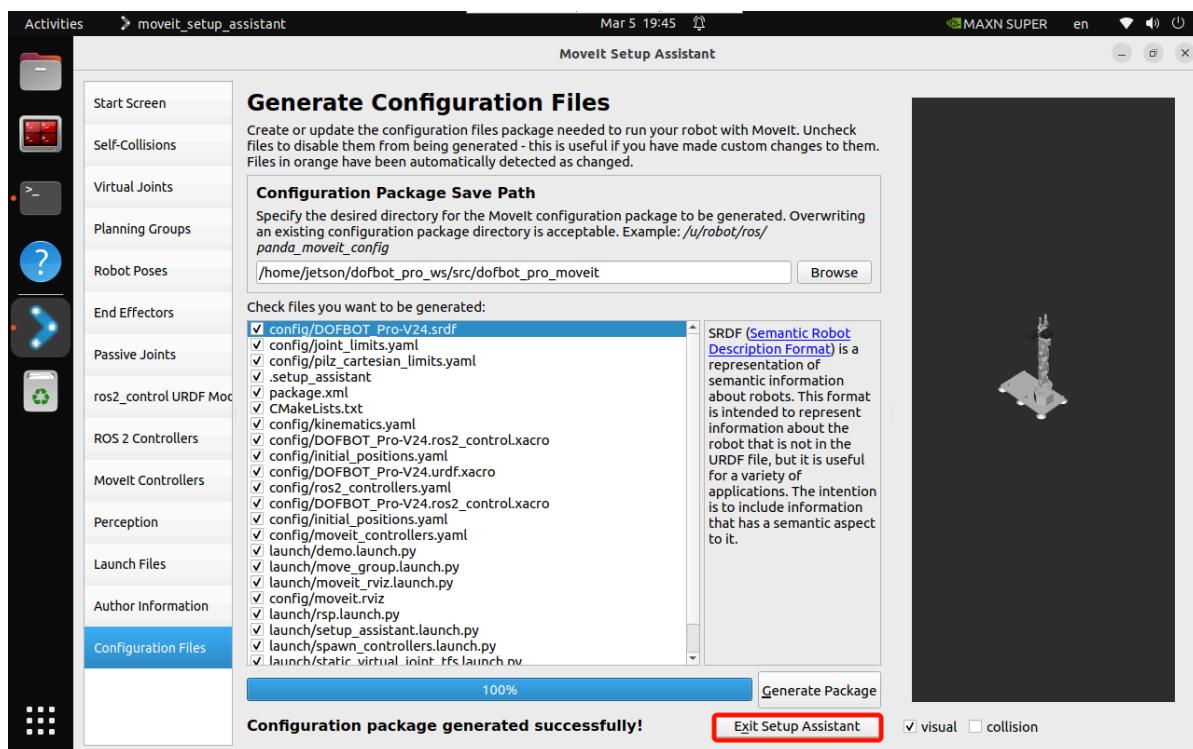
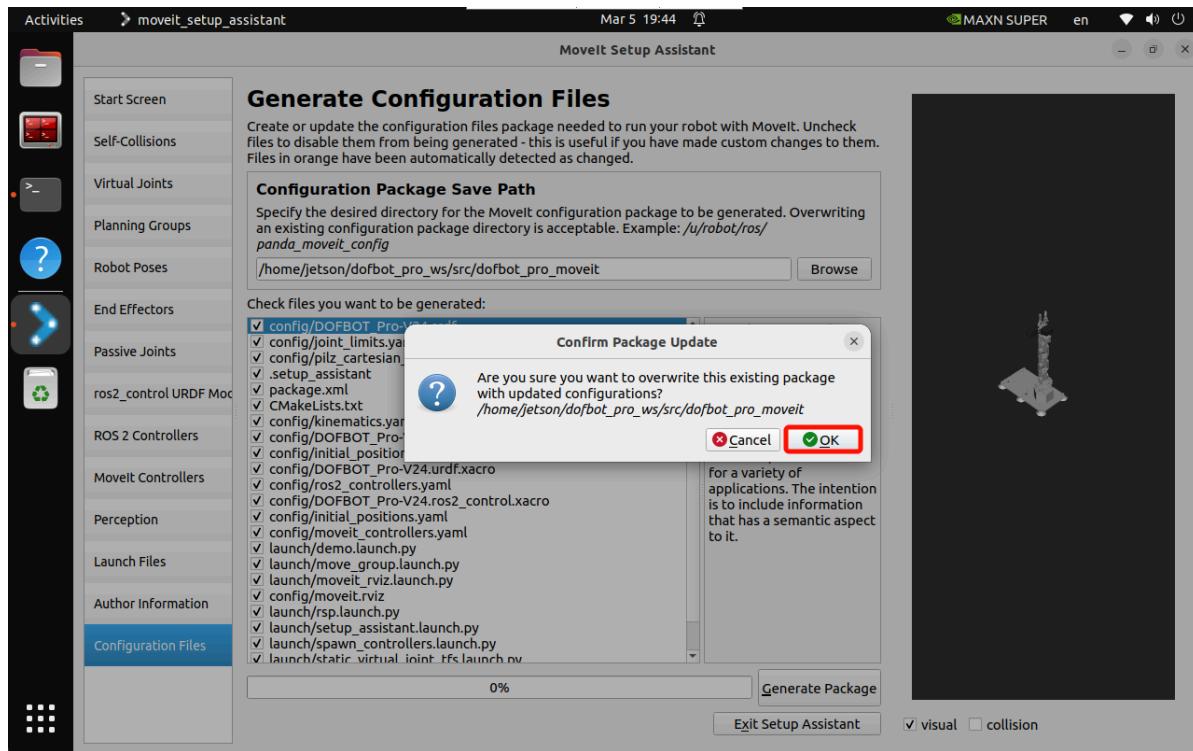
Add author information for software package generation:



2.14. Generate configuration

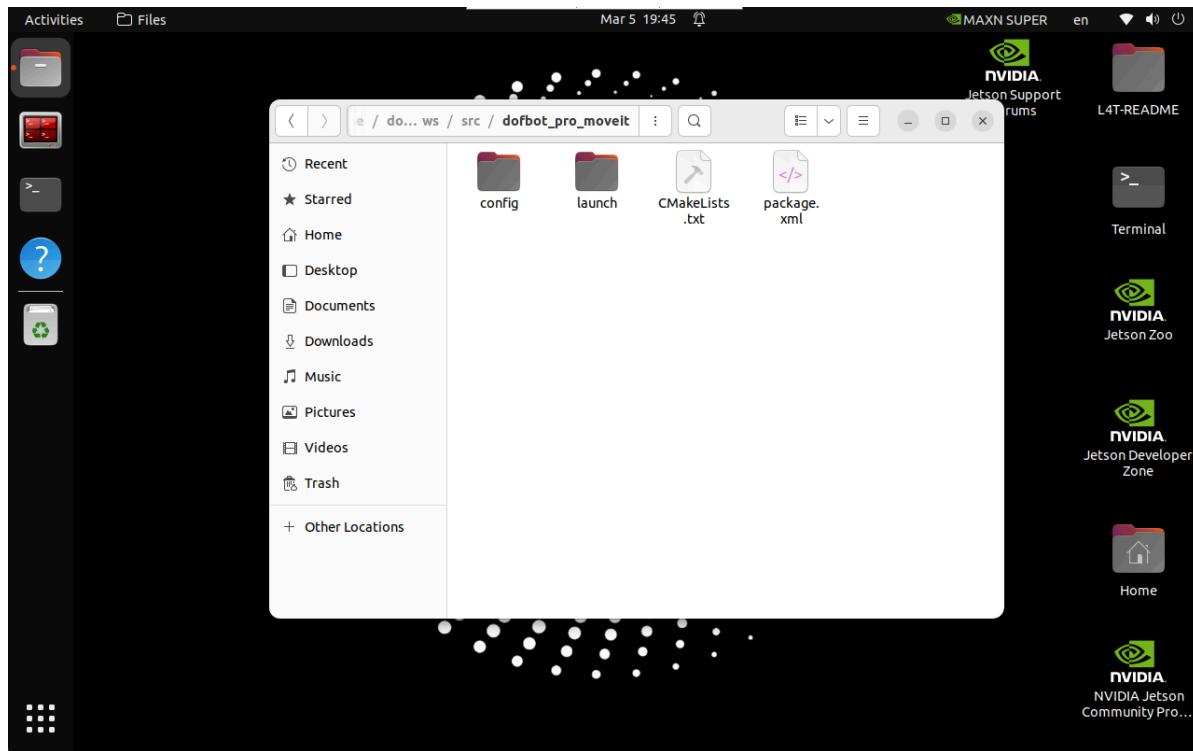
Generate configuration files to the specified folder:





3. Configuration file

Enter the `dofbot_pro_moveit` folder:



4. Configuration Verification

The configuration file generated by MoveIt Setup Assistant needs to be modified to remove the warnings and model loading issues during startup.

4.1. Modify the configuration file

DOFBOT_Pro-V24.ros2_control.xacro

Modify the `DOFBOT_Pro-V24.ros2_control.xacro` file: modify the function of loading yaml

```
load_yaml(initial_positions_file)['initial_positions']

xacro.load_yaml(initial_positions_file)['initial_positions']
```

The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "Text Editor" with the file path "/dofbot_pro_ws/src/dofbot_pro_moveit/config *DOFBOT_Pro-V24.ros2_control.xacro". The code is an XML configuration for a robot's control system, specifically for a DOFBOT_Pro-V24 model. It defines various joints (Arm1_Joint through Arm5_Joint) with their respective command and state interfaces for position and velocity. A parameter "initial_value" is set for each joint's position interface. The code uses Xacro macros and ROS parameters.

```

1 <?xml version="1.0"?>
2 <robot xmlns:xacro="http://www.ros.org/wiki/xacro">
3   <xacro:macro name="DOFBOT_Pro-V24_ros2_control" params="name initial_positions_file">
4     <xacro:property name="initial_positions" value="${xacro:load_yaml(initial_positions_file)['initial_positions']}"/>
5   </xacro:macro>
6   <ros2_control name="${name}" type="system">
7     <hardware>
8       <!-- By default, set up controllers for simulation. This won't work on real hardware -->
9       <plugin>mock_components/GenericSystem</plugin>
10      </hardware>
11      <joint name="Arm1_Joint">
12        <command_interface name="position"/>
13        <state_interface name="position">
14          <param name="initial_value">${initial_positions['Arm1_Joint']}

```

joint_limits.yaml

Modify the `joint_limits.yaml` file: change all joint maximum velocities and accelerations to decimals

The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "Text Editor" with the file path "/dofbot_pro_ws/src/dofbot_pro_moveit/config joint_limits.yaml". The code is a YAML configuration for joint limits. It defines a "joint_limits" section with entries for five joints: Arm1_Joint, Arm2_Joint, Arm3_Joint, Arm4_Joint, and Arm5_Joint. Each joint has "has_velocity_limits" set to true, "max_velocity" set to 1.0, and "has_acceleration_limits" set to false. The "max_acceleration" value is highlighted in red in the original image.

```

1 # joint_limits.yaml allows the dynamics properties specified in the URDF to be overwritten or augmented as needed
2
3 # For beginners, we downscale velocity and acceleration limits.
4 # You can always specify higher scaling factors (<= 1.0) in your motion requests. # Increase the values below to 1.0 to always
5 # move at maximum speed.
6 default_velocity_scaling_factor: 0.1
7 default_acceleration_scaling_factor: 0.1
8
9 # Specific joint properties can be changed with the keys [max_position, min_position, max_velocity, max_acceleration]
10 # Joint limits can be turned off with [has_velocity_limits, has_acceleration_limits]
11 joint_limits:
12   Arm1_Joint:
13     has_velocity_limits: true
14     max_velocity: 1.0
15     has_acceleration_limits: false
16     max_acceleration: 0.0
17   Arm2_Joint:
18     has_velocity_limits: true
19     max_velocity: 1.0
20     has_acceleration_limits: false
21     max_acceleration: 0.0
22   Arm3_Joint:
23     has_velocity_limits: true
24     max_velocity: 1.0
25     has_acceleration_limits: false
26     max_acceleration: 0.0
27   Arm4_Joint:
28     has_velocity_limits: true
29     max_velocity: 1.0
30     has_acceleration_limits: false
31     max_acceleration: 0.0
32   Arm5_Joint:
33     has_velocity_limits: true
34     max_velocity: 1.0
35     has_acceleration_limits: false
36     max_acceleration: 0.0
37   grip_joint:
38     has_velocity_limits: true
39     max_velocity: 1.0

```

4.2. Compile the software package

```

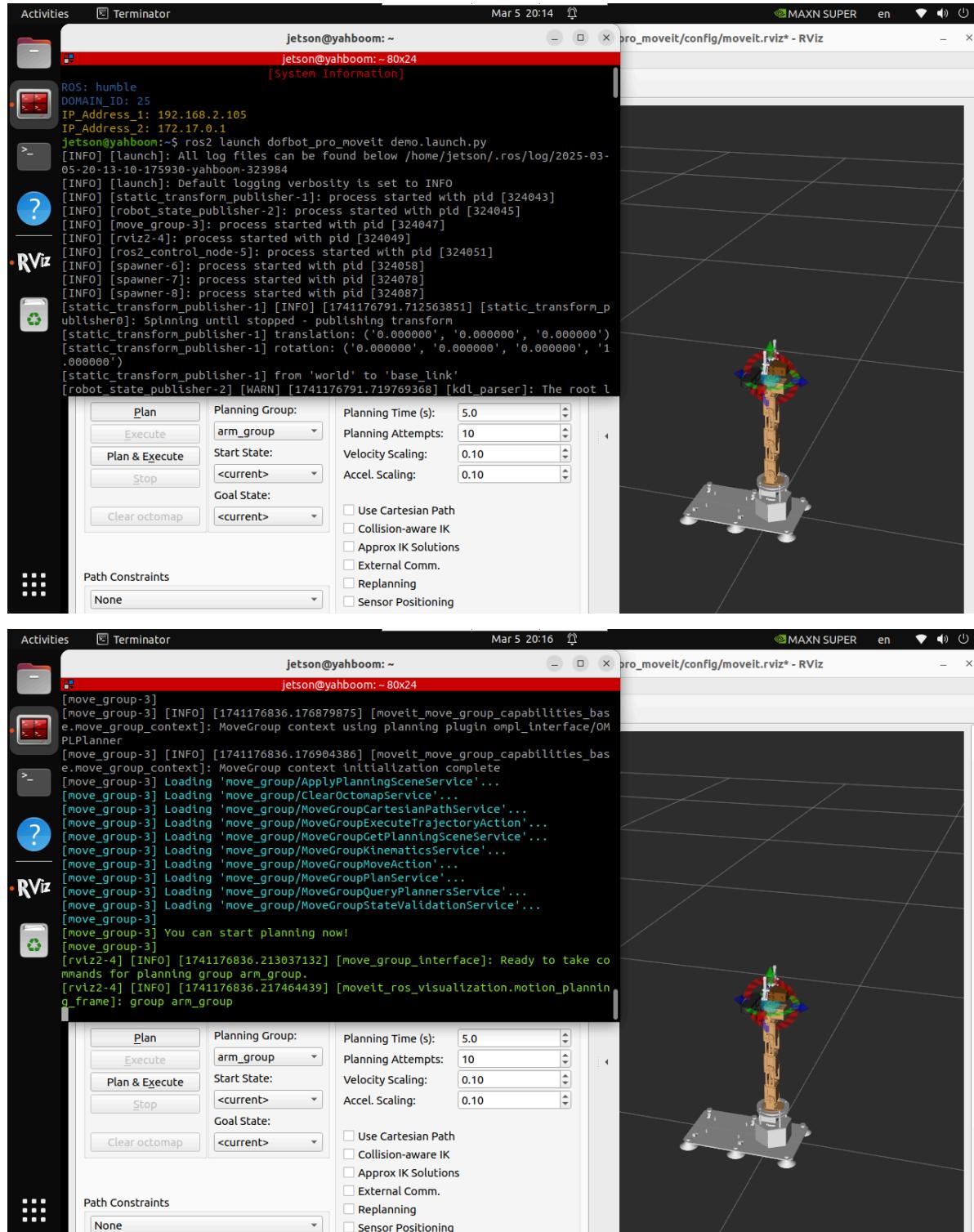
cd ~/dofbot_pro_ws
colcon build --packages-select dofbot_pro_moveit
source install/setup.bash

```

4.3. Start MoveIt

```
ros2 launch dofbot_pro_moveit demo.launch.py
```

Starting the simulation is slow. Wait until the terminal displays `You can start planning now!` or the robot arm has a trackball (the trackball is a new sphere on the robot arm), indicating that the loading is complete.



References

MoveIt2 Humble: <https://moveit.picknik.ai/humble/index.html>

MoveIt2: <https://moveit.picknik.ai/main/index.html>