ETH Robotics Summer School
Linux & ROS Cheat Sheet

Autonomous Systems Lab
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File Commands

$ **ls**	list contents of the current directory
$ **ls -al**	list hidden contents of the current directory
$ **cd**	change the directory to home
$ **cd -**	change the directory to the previous one
$ **cd $DIR**	change the directory to $DIR
$ **mkdir $DIR**	make a new directory named $DIR
$ **pwd**	print the working directory
$ **rm $FILE**	remove $FILE
$ **rm -r $DIR**	remove $DIR recursively
$ **rm -f $FILE**	force remove $FILE
$ **rm -rf $DIR**	force remove $DIR recursively
$ **cp $FILE1 $FILE2/$DIR**	copy $FILE1 to $FILE2/$DIR
$ **cp -r $DIR1 $DIR2**	copy $DIR1 to $DIR2 recursively
$ **mv $FILE1 $FILE2/$DIR**	move $FILE1 to $FILE2/$DIR
$ **ln -s $FILE $LINK**	create a symbolic link $LINK to $FILE
$ **touch $FILE**	create $FILE
$ **cat $FILE**	view content of $FILE
$ **cat > $FILE**	write input into $FILE
$ **echo $STRING/$VAR**	print $STRING/value of $VAR
$ **more $FILE**	print content of $FILE
$ **head $FILE**	print the first 10 lines of $FILE
$ **tail $FILE**	print the last 10 lines of $FILE
$ **gedit $FILE**	edit $FILE using GUI text editor
$ **vim $FILE**	edit $FILE using Vim

System Information

$ **env**		print environment variables
$ **date**		print system date and time
$ **man $COMMAND**		print user manual of $COMMAND
$ **whereis $APP**		print locations of $APP
$ **which $APP**		print executable file of $APP
$ **ps**		print process status
$ **ps -aux**		print all running process
$ **htop**		print currently running processes and more
path symbolic links	.	current directory
	..	parent directory
	~	home directory
	/	root directory
output direction	>	to a file (rewrite)
	>>	to a file (append)
	|	pipe output of first command to second

Linux Shell

Ctrl+Alt+T	launch a new terminal
Ctrl+C	kill the current process
Ctrl+Z	suspend the current process
fg	resume the suspended process in foreground
bg	resume the suspended process in background
Ctrl+D	log out of the current session
Ctrl+W	erase one word in the current line
Ctrl+U	erase the whole current line
Ctrl+R	reverse search in the previous commands
Ctrl+A	go to the beginning of the line
Ctrl+E	go to the end of the line
!!	execute the last command
exit	log out of the current session
clear	clear the terminal screen

Use **Ctrl+R** to reverse search, type part of a command and hit **Ctrl+R** repeatedly.
Ctrl+A is especially useful when you forget to add sudo before the command.

Terminator

Ctrl+Shift+E	split terminals vertically
Ctrl+Shift+O	split terminals horizontally
Ctrl+Shift+T	open a new tab
Ctrl+Shift+I	open a new window

Terminal Multiplexer (TMUX)

Secure Shell (SSH)

$ **ssh $USER@$HOST**	connect $HOST as $USER
$ **ssh $IP_ADDRESS**	connect $IP_ADDRESS
$ **ssh -p $PORT $USER@$HOST**	connect $HOST on $PORT as $USER
$ **ssh-copy-id $USER@$HOST**	add the key to $HOST as $USER

Package

$ **sudo apt-get update**	synchronize package index files from sources
$ **sudo apt-get upgrade**	install latest versions of installed packages
$ **sudo apt-get install $PACKAGE**	install $PACKAGE
$ **sudo dpkg -i $PACKAGE.deb**	install a Debian package $PACKAGE.deb
$ **./configure**	configure building settings
$ **make**	build the program from source code
$ **make install**	install the program

Searching

$ **grep $PATTERN $FILES**	search for $PATTERN in $FILES
$ **grep -r $PATTERN $DIR**	search for $PATTERN recursively in $DIR
$ **grep -n $PATTERN $FILES**	search for $PATTERN and print line numbers
$ **grep -C1 $PATTERN $FILES**	search for $PATTERN and print 1-line context
$ **$CMD | grep $PATTERN**	search for $PATTERN in $CMD's output
$ **locate $FILE_NAME**	find files whose name contain $FILE_NAME

Git

$ **git clone $URL**	clone the repository from $URL
$ **git status**	print current branch status $BRANCH
$ **git branch $BRANCH**	create a new branch named $BRANCH
$ **git checkout $BRANCH**	switch to the branch named $BRANCH
$ **git merge $BRANCH**	combine $BRANCH into the current one
$ **git fetch**	download all history from GitHub
$ **git merge**	combine remote branches into local branch
$ **git push**	upload all local branch commits to GitHub
$ **git pull**	update local branch from GitHub
$ **git log**	list version history for current branch
$ **git log --follow $FILE**	list version history for $FILE
$ **git show $COMMIT**	output content changes of $COMMIT
$ **git add $FILE**	stage $FILE
$ **git commit -m "$MESSAGE"**	commit staged file with $MESSAGE
$ **git reset $FILE**	reset $FILE
$ **git reset --hard**	reset all uncommitted changes
$ **git clean -fd**	recursively force remove unstaged files

Docker

$
$
$
$
$
$

Miscellaneous

$ **sudo $COMMAND**	run $COMMAND with elevated privilege
$ **$COMMAND --help**	print $COMMAND's usage help
$ **ip address**	print all internet protocol addresses
$ **ping $HOST**	ping $HOST and print results
$ **tar xfz $FILE.tar.gz**	extract files from $FILE.tar.gz

ROS Catkin Workspace

$ **roscd $PACKAGE**	change directory to $PACKAGE's location
$ **catkin build**	build the whole workspace
$ **catkin build $PACKAGE**	build $PACKAGE
$ **catkin clean**	clean the whole workspace
$ **catkin config $OPTIONS**	configure catkin workspace with $OPTIONS
$ **wstool init**	set up current directory as workspace
$ **wstool merge $ROSINSTALL**	merge $ROSINSTALL into the workspace
$ **wstool up**	update configuration elements

Always remember to $ **source ~/catkin_ws/devel/setup.bash**.

ROS Run

$ **roscore**	invoke the core of ROS
$ **roslaunch $PACKAGE $LAUNCHFILE**	launch $LAUNCHFILE in $PACKAGE
$ **rosrun $PACKAGE $EXECUTABLE [$PARAM:=$VALUE]**	run node $EXECUTABLE from $PACKAGE [with $PARAM set to $VALUE]

ROS Node

$ **rosnode ping $NODE**	test connectivity to $NODE
$ **rosnode list**	list active nodes
$ **rosnode info $NODE**	print information about $NODE
$ **rosnode machine**	list nodes running on the machine
$ **rosnode kill $NODE**	kill the running $NODE

ROS Parameter

$ **rosparam list**	list all parameter names
$ **rosparam set $PARAM $VAL**	set value of $PARAM to $VAL
$ **rosparam get $PARAM**	print value of $PARAM
$ **rosparam load $YAML**	load parameters from $YAML
$ **rosparam dump $YAML**	dump parameters to $YAML
$ **rosparam delete $PARAM**	delete $PARAM

ROS Topic

$ **rostopic list**	print information about active topics
$ **rostopic bw $TOPIC**	display bandwidth used by $TOPIC
$ **rostopic echo $TOPIC**	print messages from $TOPIC
$ **rostopic find $TYPE**	find topics of $TYPE
$ **rostopic hz $TOPIC**	display publishing rate of $TOPIC
$ **rostopic info $TOPIC**	print information about $TOPIC
$ **rostopic pub $TOPIC**	publish data to $TOPIC
$ **rostopic type $TOPIC**	print type of $TOPIC
$ **rosmsg show $TYPE**	print structure of $TYPE

ROS Service

$ **rosservice list**	list active services
$ **rosservice call $SERVICE $ARGS**	call $SERVICE with $ARGS
$ **rosservice find $TYPE**	find services of $TYPE
$ **rosservice info $SERVICE**	print information about $SERVICE
$ **rosservice type $SERVICE**	print type of $SERVICE
$ **rosservice uri $SERVICE**	print uri of $SERVICE
$ **rossrv show $TYPE**	print structure of $TYPE

ROS Environmental Variables

ROS_ROOT	location of core ROS packages
ROS_MASTER_URI	location of the master
ROS_PACKAGE_PATH	location for more ROS packages
ROS_HOSTNAME	network address of a node
ROS_IP	IP address of a node

ROS Bag

$ **rosbag record $TOPIC**	record $TOPIC into bag
$ **rosbag info $BAG**	print content summary of $BAG
$ **rosbag play $BAG**	play back content of $BAG
$ **rosbag check $BAG**	check play-ability of $BAG in current system
$ **rosbag compress $BAG**	compress $BAG using BZ2
$ **rosbag decompress $BAG**	decompress $BAG using BZ2

When simulating in ROS, remember $ **set use_sim_time true** and to append **--clock**.

ROS Visualization Tools

$ **rviz**	3D visualization of data and models
$ **gzclient**	Gazebo GUI
$ **rqt**	powerful GUI tool
$ **rqt_plot**	simple and lightweight plotting
$ **rqt_bag**	visualize content of a bag
$ **rqt_image_view**	visualize camera images
$ **rqt_graph**	visualize computation graph
$ **rqt_tf_tree**	visualize TF frame tree

ROS Packge Structure

package.xml	manifest, dependencies and plugins
CMakeLists.txt	description of compilation procedure
src/	C and C++ source codes
build/	generated makefiles and support files
devel/	compiled binaries, libraries, headers
include/	C and C++ header files
scripts/	Python and bash scripts
config/	YMAL configuration files
cfg/	dynamic reconfigure scripts
launch/	launch files

ROS Launch File Elements

<node>	launch a node
<param>	set a parameter on the parameter server
<remap>	declare a name mapping
<rosparam>	set ROS parameters for the launch
<include>	include other roslaunch files
<env>	specify an environment variable for launched nodes
<arg>	declare an argument
<group>	group enclosed elements sharing a namespace or remap

SMB Workspace

Key Packages

rovio	robust visual inertial odometry framework
maplab	visual-inertial mapping framework
voxblox	volumetric mapping library
apriltag	visual fiducial system
elevation_mapping	produce elevation map around robot
traversability_estimation	traversability mapping for rough terrain
icp_mapper	iterative closest point based slam system
smb_local_planner	path planning system for SMB

Configuration

Launch Files

Always remember to charge your SMB after each use.

Candidate Contents

Compression

$ **tar cf** `$FILE.tar` `$FILES`	convert `$FILES` into `$FILE.tar`
$ **tar xf** `$FILE.tar`	extract files from `$FILE.tar`
$ **tar czf** `$FILE.tar.gz` `$FILES`	compress `$FILES` into `$FILE.tar.gz` using Gzip
$ **tar xfz** `$FILE.tar.gz`	extract files from `$FILE.tar.gz` using Gzip
$ **gzip** `$FILE`	compress `$FILE` and rename it as `$FILE.gz`
$ **gzip -d** `$FILE.gz`	decompress `$FILE.gz` back to `$FILE`

Network

$ **ip address**	print all internet protocol addresses
$ **ping** `$HOST`	ping `$HOST` and print results
$ **whois** `$DOMAIN`	print information about `$DOMAIN`
$ **dig** `$DOMAIN`	print DNS of `$DOMAIN`
$ **dig -x** `$HOST`	reverse lookup `$HOST`
$ **wget** `$FILE`	download `$FILE`

ROS TF2 Structure

stamp	time stamp of transform
frame_id & child_frame_id	id of parent and child frame
translation	x, y, z
rotation (quaternion)	x, y, z, w

Comments

Ctrl+Alt+T is a desktop environment shortcut actually. However, it fits in the Linux Shell section for now.

some concise explanation of the whole TF concept