Your First C++ MoveIt Project

This tutorial will step you through writing your first C++ application with MoveIt.

Prerequisites

If you haven't already done so, make sure you've completed the steps in Getting Started.

This tutorial assumes you understand the basics of ROS 2. To prepare yourself for this please complete the Official ROS 2 Tutorials up until "Writing a simple publisher and Subscriber (C++)".

Steps

1 Create a package

Open a terminal and source your ROS 2 installation so that `ros2`

commands will work.

Navigate to your `ws_moveit2` directory you created in the Getting Started Tutorial.

Change directory into the `src` directory, as that is where we put our source code.

Create a new package with the ROS 2 command line tools:

```
ros2 pkg create \
 --build-type ament_cmake \
 --dependencies moveit_ros_planning_interface rclcpp \
 --node-name hello_moveit hello_moveit
```

The output of this will show that it created some files in a new directory.

Note that we added `moveit_ros_planning_interface` and `rclcpp` as dependencies. This will create the necessary changes in the `package.xml` and `CMakeLists.txt` files so that we can depend on these two packages.
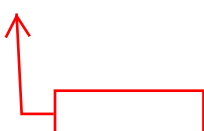
Open the new source file created for you at `ws_moveit2/src/hello_moveit/src/hello_moveit.cpp` in your favorite editor.

2 Create a ROS Node and Executor

This first block of code is a bit of boilerplate but you should be used to seeing this from the ROS 2 tutorials.

```cpp
#include <memory>

#include <rclcpp/rclcpp.hpp>
#include <moveit/move_group_interface/move_group_interface.h>

int main(int argc, char * argv[])
{
  // Initialize ROS and create the Node
  rclcpp::init(argc, argv);
  auto const node = std::make_shared<rclcpp::Node>(
    "hello_moveit",
    rclcpp::NodeOptions().automatically_declare_parameters_from_overrides(true)
  );

  // Create a ROS logger
  auto const logger = rclcpp::get_logger("hello_moveit");

  // Next step goes here

  // Shutdown ROS
  rclcpp::shutdown();
  return 0;
}
```

2.1 Build and Run

We will build and run the program to see that everything is right before we move on.

Change directory back to the workspace directory `ws_moveit2` and run this command:

```
colcon build --mixin debug
```

After this succeeds, **open a new terminal**, then source the workspace environment script in that new terminal so that we can run our program.

```
cd ~/ws_moveit2
source install/setup.bash
```

Run your program and see the output.

```
ros2 run hello_moveit hello_moveit
```

The program should run and exit without error.

2.2 Examine the code

The headers included at the top are just some standard C++ headers and the header for ROS and MoveIt that we will use later.

After that, we have the normal call to initialize rclcpp, and then we create our Node.

```
auto const node = std::make_shared<rclcpp::Node>(
  "hello_moveit",
  rclcpp::NodeOptions().automatically_declare_parameters_from_overrides(true)
);
```

The first argument is a string that ROS will use to make a unique node. The second is needed for MoveIt because of how we use ROS Parameters.

Lastly, we have the code to shutdown ROS.

3 Plan and Execute using MoveGroupInterface

In place of the comment that says "Next step goes here," add this code:

(handwritten annotations)

where to put?

Get stucked here for a long time...

the file structure is important

Colon and Cmake is really troublesome

Finally made it:

1.
colcon build --mixin release
This build command will likely take a long time (20+ minutes) depending on your computer speed and amount of RAM available (we recommend 32 GB). If you are short on computer memory or generally your build is struggling to complete on your computer, you can append the argument --parallel-workers 1 to the colcon command above.

2.
pip install setuptools==58.2.0
https://answers.ros.org/question/396439/setuptoolsdeprecationwarning-setuppy-install-is-deprecated-use-build-and-pip-and-other-standards-based-tools/

```
// Create the MoveIt MoveGroup Interface
using moveit::planning_interface::MoveGroupInterface;
auto move_group_interface = MoveGroupInterface(node, "panda_arm");

// Set a target Pose
auto const target_pose = []{
  geometry_msgs::msg::Pose msg;
  msg.orientation.w = 1.0;
  msg.position.x = 0.28;
  msg.position.y = -0.2;
  msg.position.z = 0.5;
  return msg;
}();
move_group_interface.setPoseTarget(target_pose);

// Create a plan to that target pose
auto const [success, plan] = [&move_group_interface]{
  moveit::planning_interface::MoveGroupInterface::Plan msg;
  auto const ok = static_cast<bool>(move_group_interface.plan(msg));
  return std::make_pair(ok, msg);
}();

// Execute the plan
if(success) {
  move_group_interface.execute(plan);
} else {
  RCLCPP_ERROR(logger, "Planing failed!");
}
```

3.1 Build and Run

Just like before, we need to build the code before we can run it.

In the workspace directory, `ws_moveit2` , run this command:

`colcon build --mixin debug`

After this succeeds, we need to re-use the demo launch file from the previous tutorial to start RViz and the MoveGroup node. In a separate terminal, source the workspace and then execute this:

```
ros2 launch moveit2_tutorials demo.launch.py
```

Then in the `Displays` window under `MotionPlanning/Planning Request` , uncheck the box `Query Goal State` .

In a third terminal, source the workspace and run your program.

```
ros2 run hello_moveit hello_moveit
```

This should cause the robot in RViz to move and end up in this pose:

Note that if you ran the node `hello_moveit` without launching the demo launch file first, it will wait for 10 seconds and then print this error and exit.

```
[ERROR] [1644181704.350825487] [hello_moveit]:
Could not find parameter robot_description and
did not receive robot_description via
std_msgs::msg::String subscription within
10.000000 seconds.
```

This is because the `demo.launch.py` launch is starting the `MoveGroup` node that provides the robot description. When `MoveGroupInterface` is constructed, it looks for a node publishing a topic with the robot description. If it fails to find that within 10 seconds, it prints this error and terminates the program.
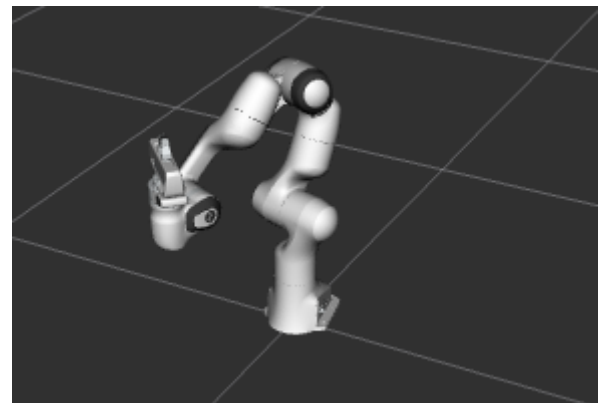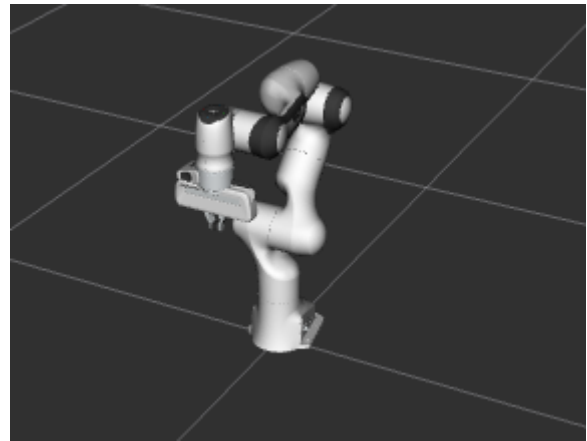
3.2 Examine the code

The first thing we do is create the MoveGroupInterface. This object will be used to interact with move_group, which allows us to plan and execute trajectories. Note that this is the only mutable object that we create in this program. Another thing to take note of is the second interface to the `MoveGroupInterface` object we are creating here: `"panda_arm"`. That is the group of joints as defined in the robot description that we are going to operate on with this `MoveGroupInterface`.

```
using moveit::planning_interface::MoveGroupInterface;
auto move_group_interface = MoveGroupInterface(node, "panda_arm");
```

Then, we set our target pose and plan. Note that only the target pose is set (via `setPoseTarget`. The starting pose is implicitly the position published by joint state publisher, which could be changed using the `MoveGroupInterface::setStartState*` family of functions (but is not in this tutorial).

One more thing to note about this next section is the use of lambdas for constructing the message type `target_pose` and planning. This is a pattern you'll find in modern C++ codebases that enables writing in a more declarative style. For more information about this pattern there is a couple of links at the end of this tutorial.

```cpp
// Set a target Pose
auto const target_pose = []{
  geometry_msgs::msg::Pose msg;
  msg.orientation.w = 1.0;
  msg.position.x = 0.28;
  msg.position.y = -0.2;
  msg.position.z = 0.5;
  return msg;
}();
move_group_interface.setPoseTarget(target_pose);

// Create a plan to that target pose
auto const [success, plan] = [&move_group_interface]{
  moveit::planning_interface::MoveGroupInterface::Plan msg;
  auto const ok = static_cast<bool>(move_group_interface.plan(msg));
  return std::make_pair(ok, msg);
}();
```

Finally, we execute our plan if planning was successful, otherwise we log an error:

```cpp
// Execute the plan
if(success) {
  move_group_interface.execute(plan);
} else {
  RCLCPP_ERROR(logger, "Planning failed!");
}
```

Summary

- You created a ROS 2 package and wrote your first program using MoveIt.

- You learned about using the MoveGroupInterface to plan and execute moves.

- Here is a copy of the full hello_moveit.cpp source at the end of this tutorial.

Further Reading

- We used lambdas to be able to initialize objects as constants. This is known as a technique called IIFE. Read more about this pattern from C++ Stories.

- We also declared everything we could as const. Read more about the usefulness of const here.

Next Step

In the next tutorial Visualizing in RViz, you will expand on the program you built here to create visual markers that make it easier to understand what MoveIt is doing.