Hochschule
Bonn-Rhein-Sieg
University of Applied Sciences

b-it Bonn-Aachen International Center for Information Technology

Introduction to ROS

Foundation Course

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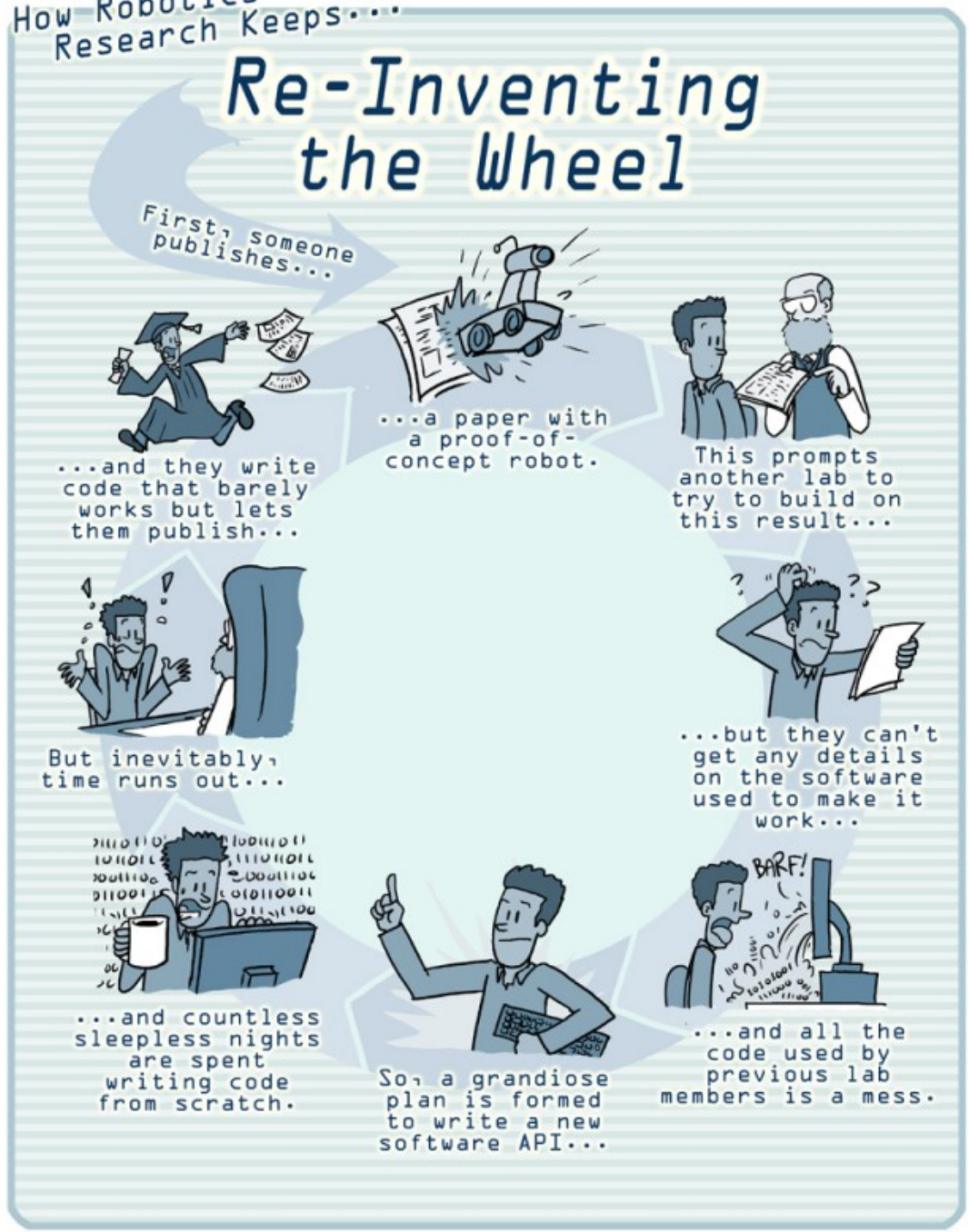
What ROS is

Robot Operating System

- Short for: Robot Operating System.
- A collection of libraries and tools.
- It helps software developers create robot applications.



http://www.willowgarage.com/blog/2010/04/27/reinventing-wheel

What ROS is

Robot Operating System

- A way to standardize writing software for robots.
- It enhances code reusability  .
- ROS is open-source  .
- It is a meta-operating system.
- ROS is installed on top of Linux. 

What ROS is NOT

Robot Operating System

- It is NOT a programming language.
- It is NOT an integrated development environment (IDE).
- It is NOT a stand-alone operating system.

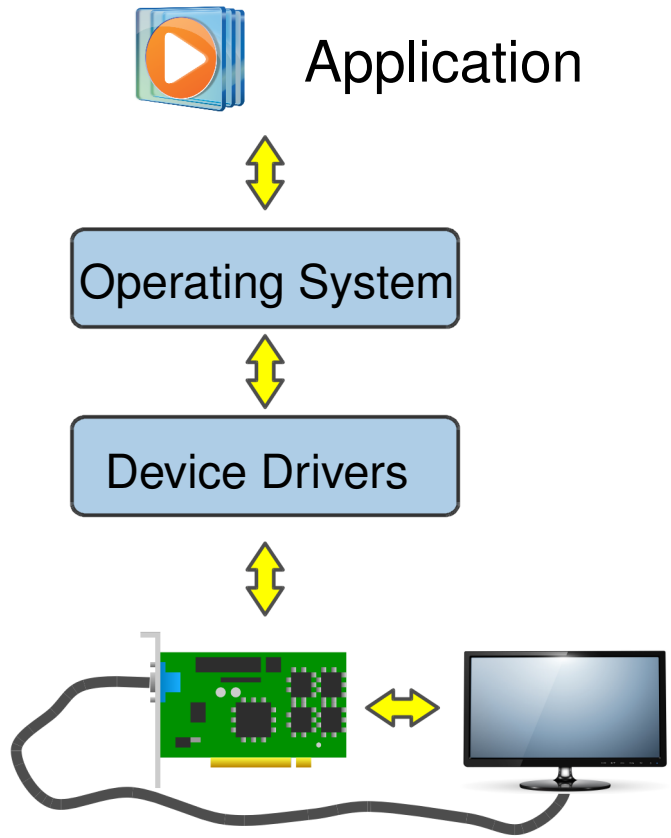
Analogy Between ROS and Operating Systems

Software Applications

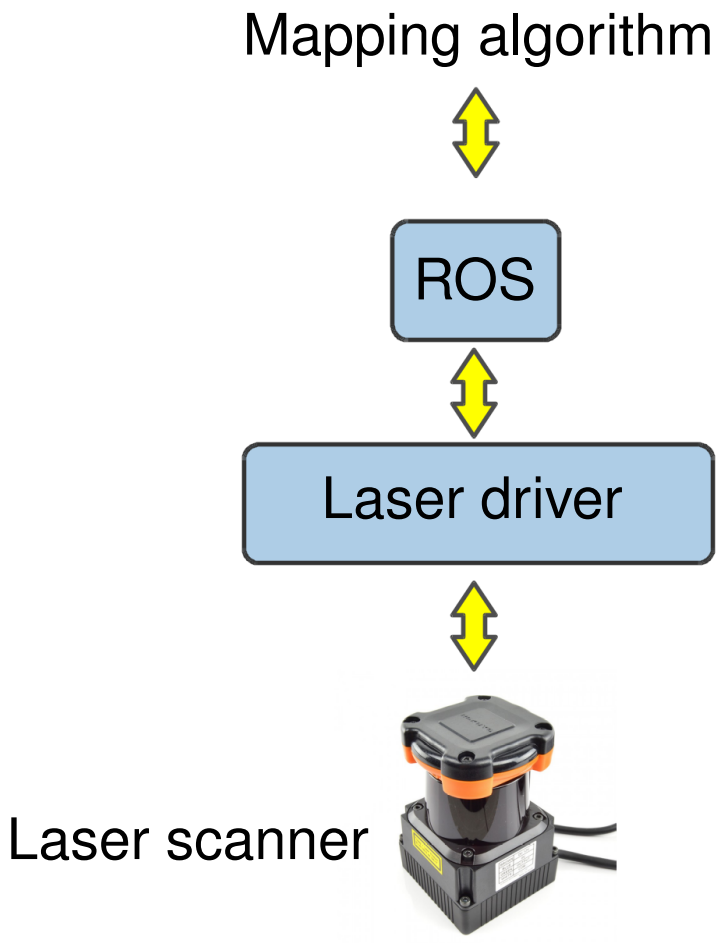
work on

Different hardware

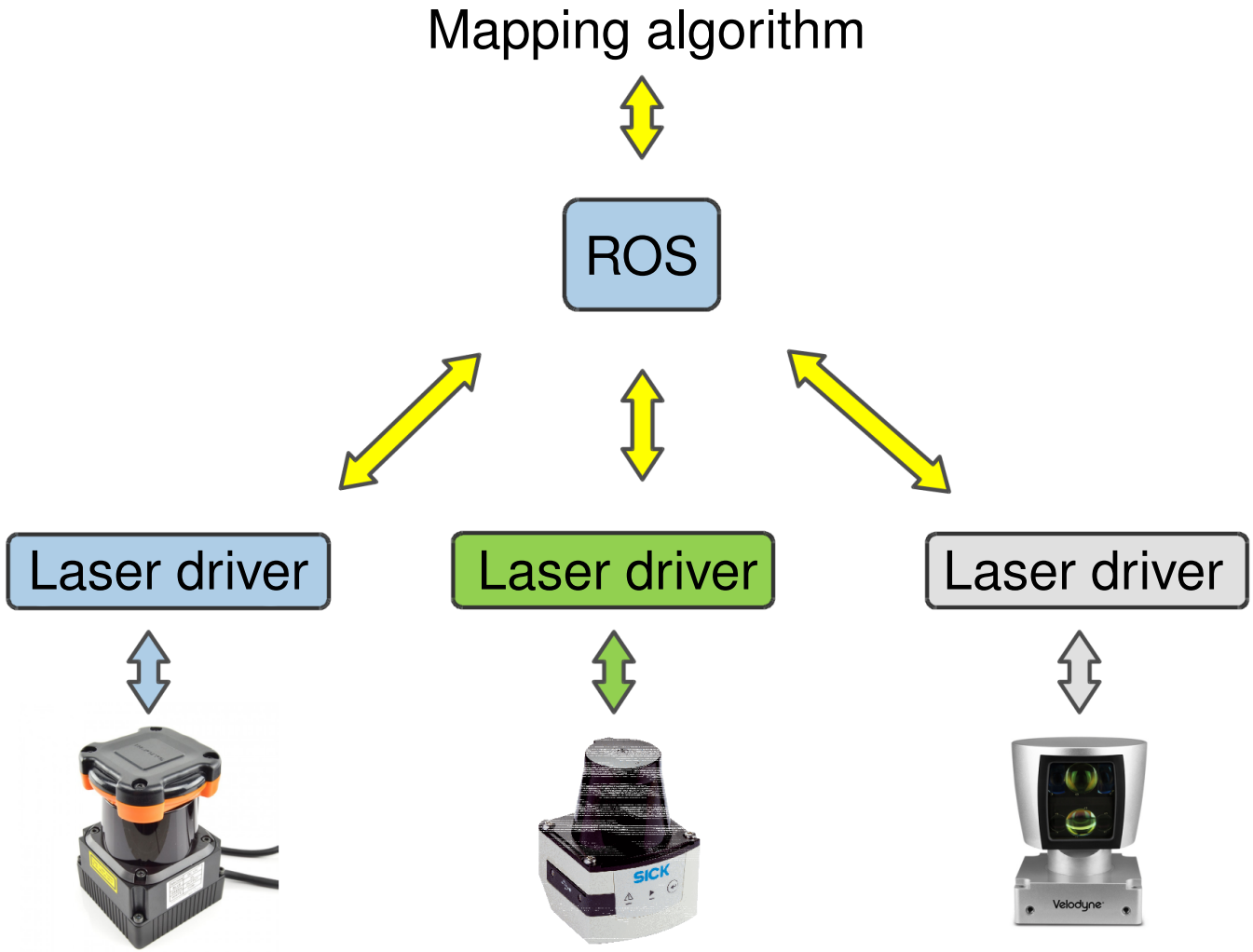
Analogy Between ROS and Operating Systems



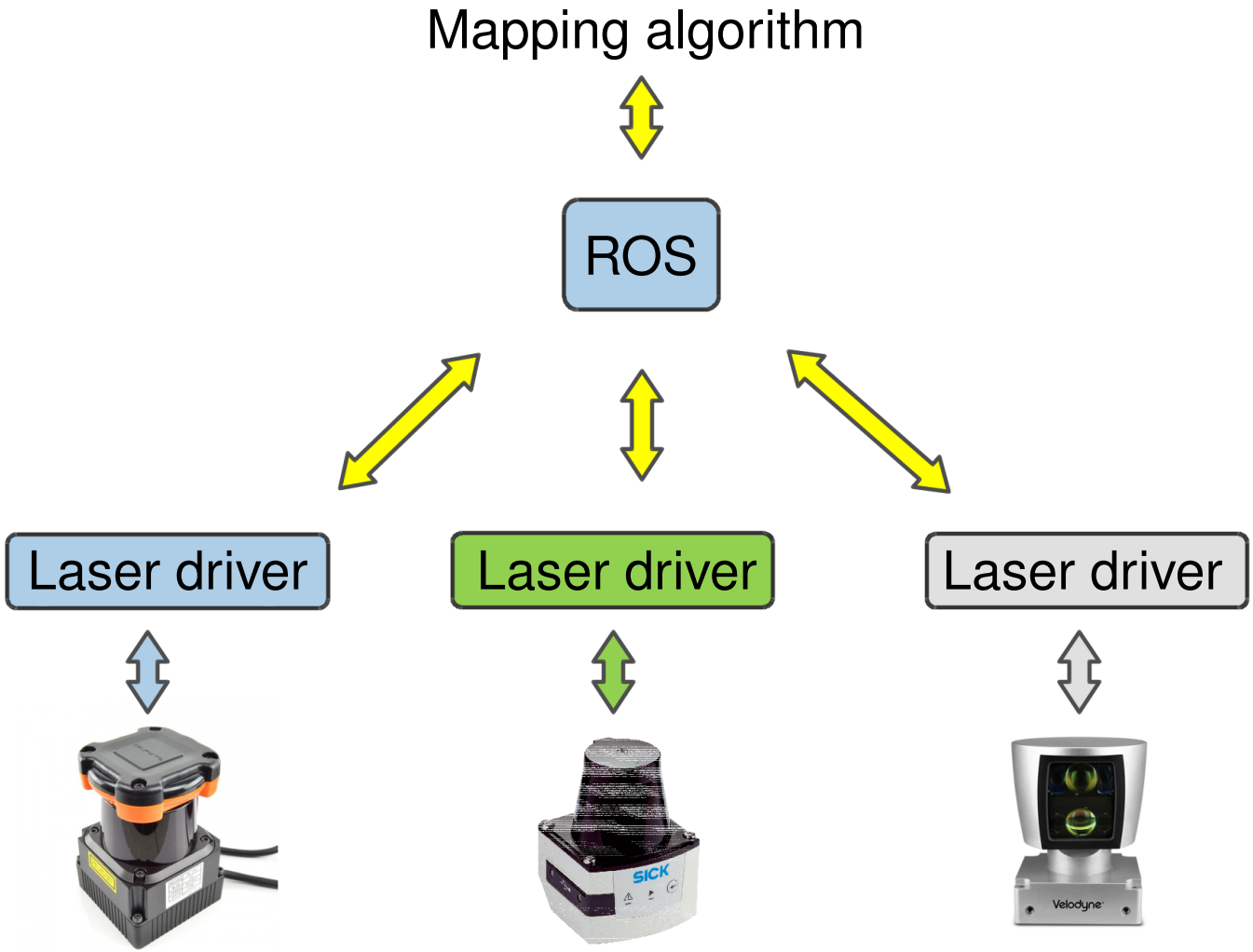
Analogy Between ROS and Operating Systems



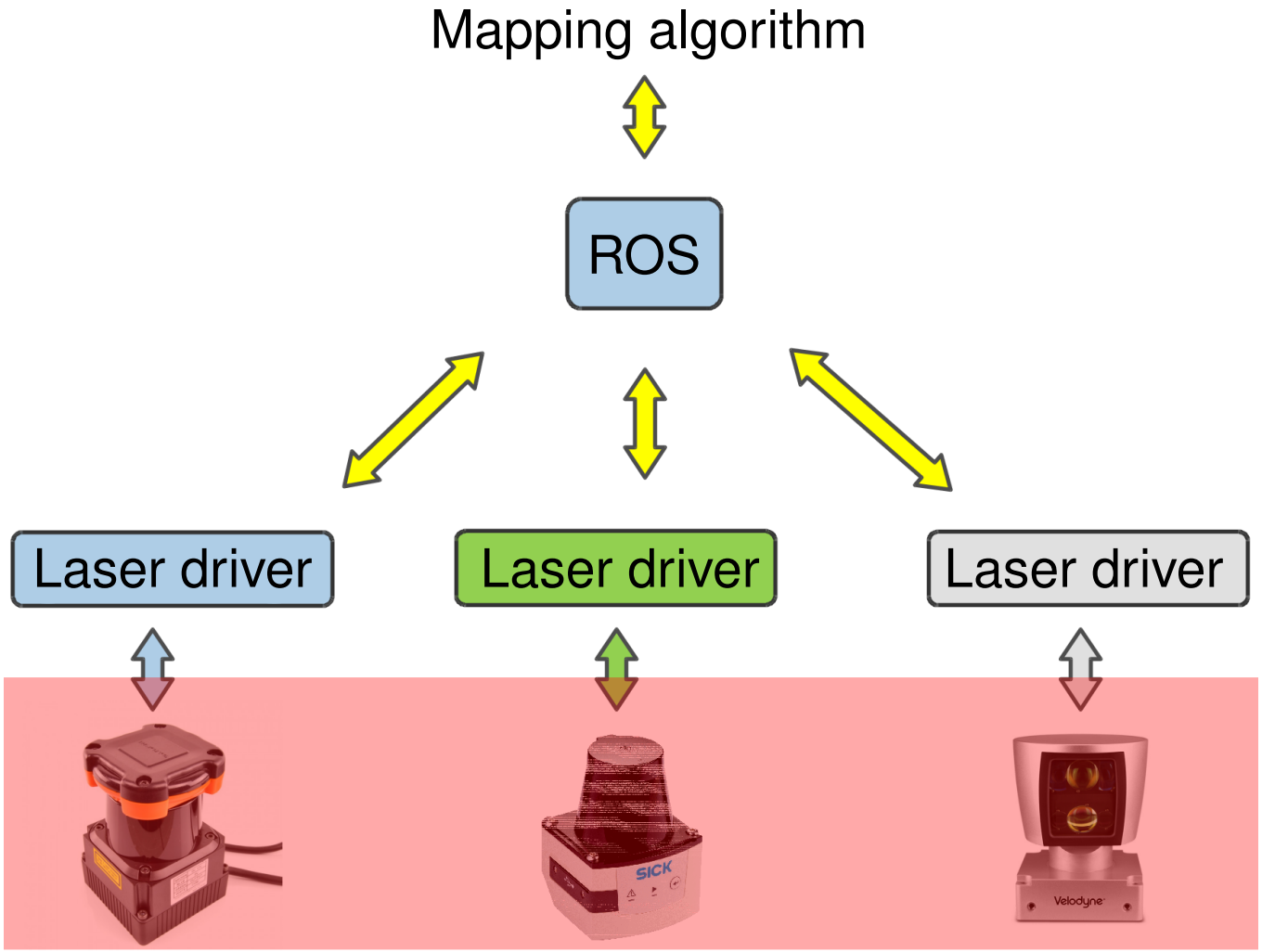
Analogy Between ROS and Operating Systems



Analogy Between ROS and Operating Systems

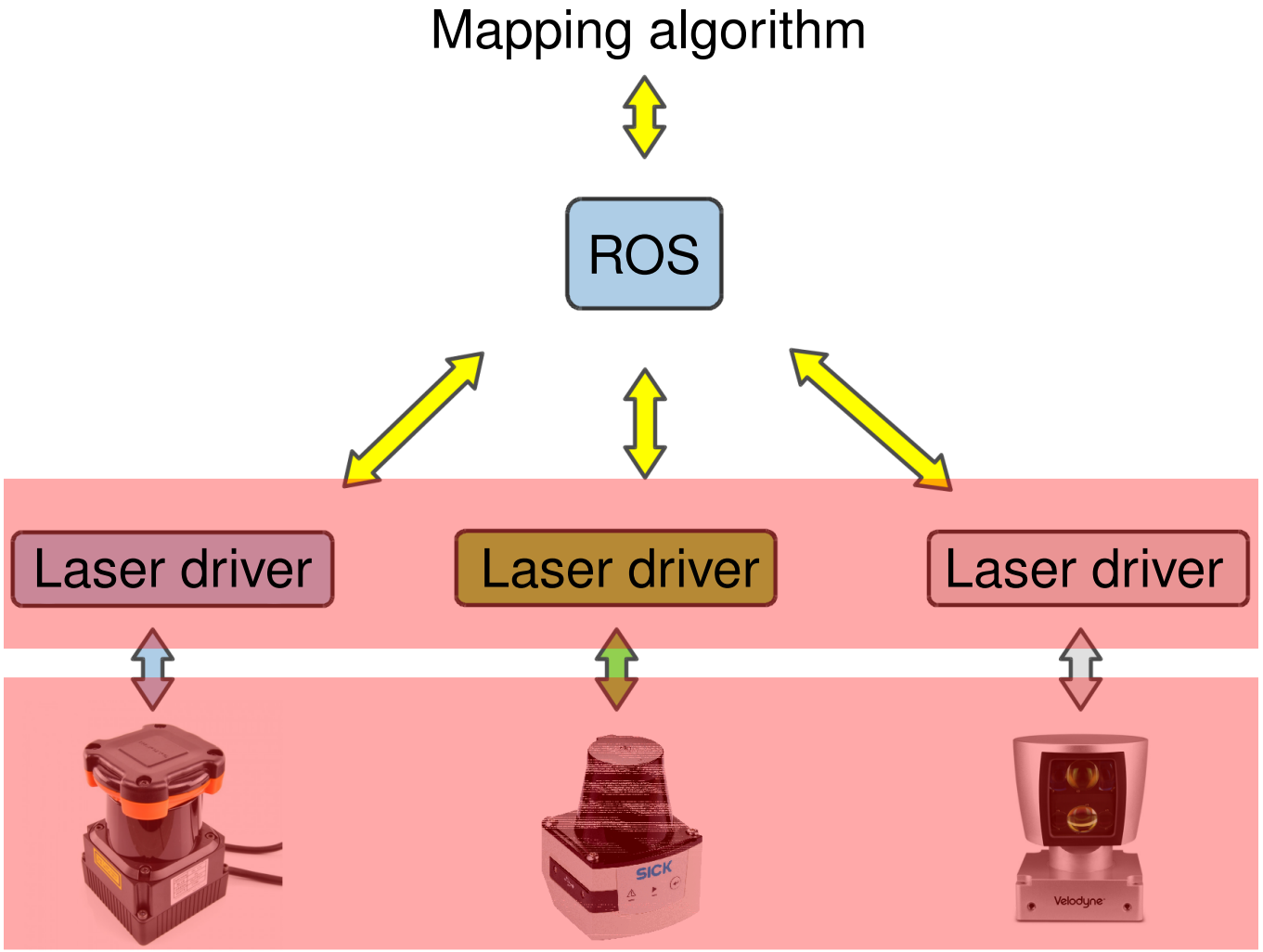


Analogy Between ROS and Operating Systems

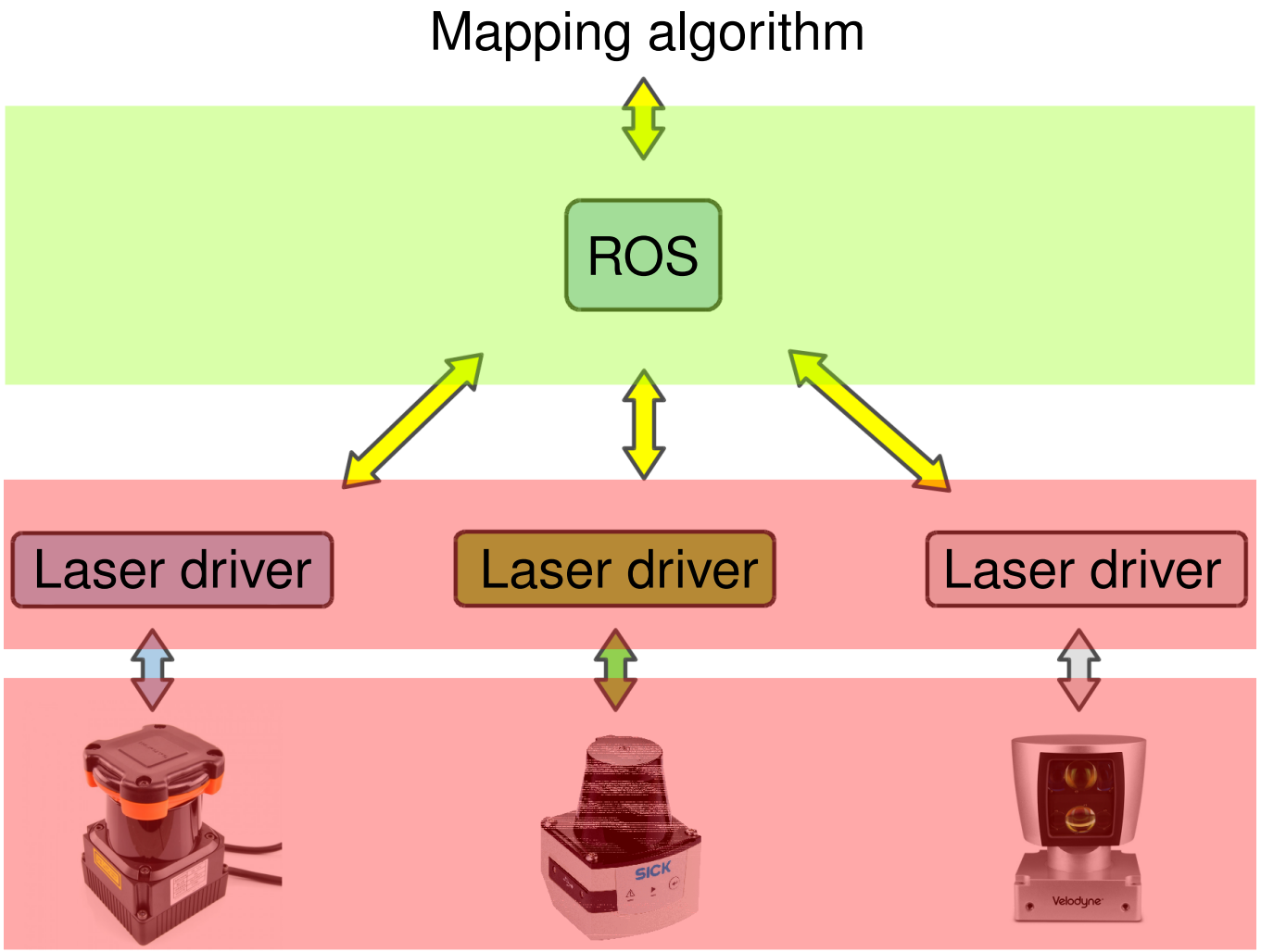


Different hardware

Analogy Between ROS and Operating Systems



Analogy Between ROS and Operating Systems

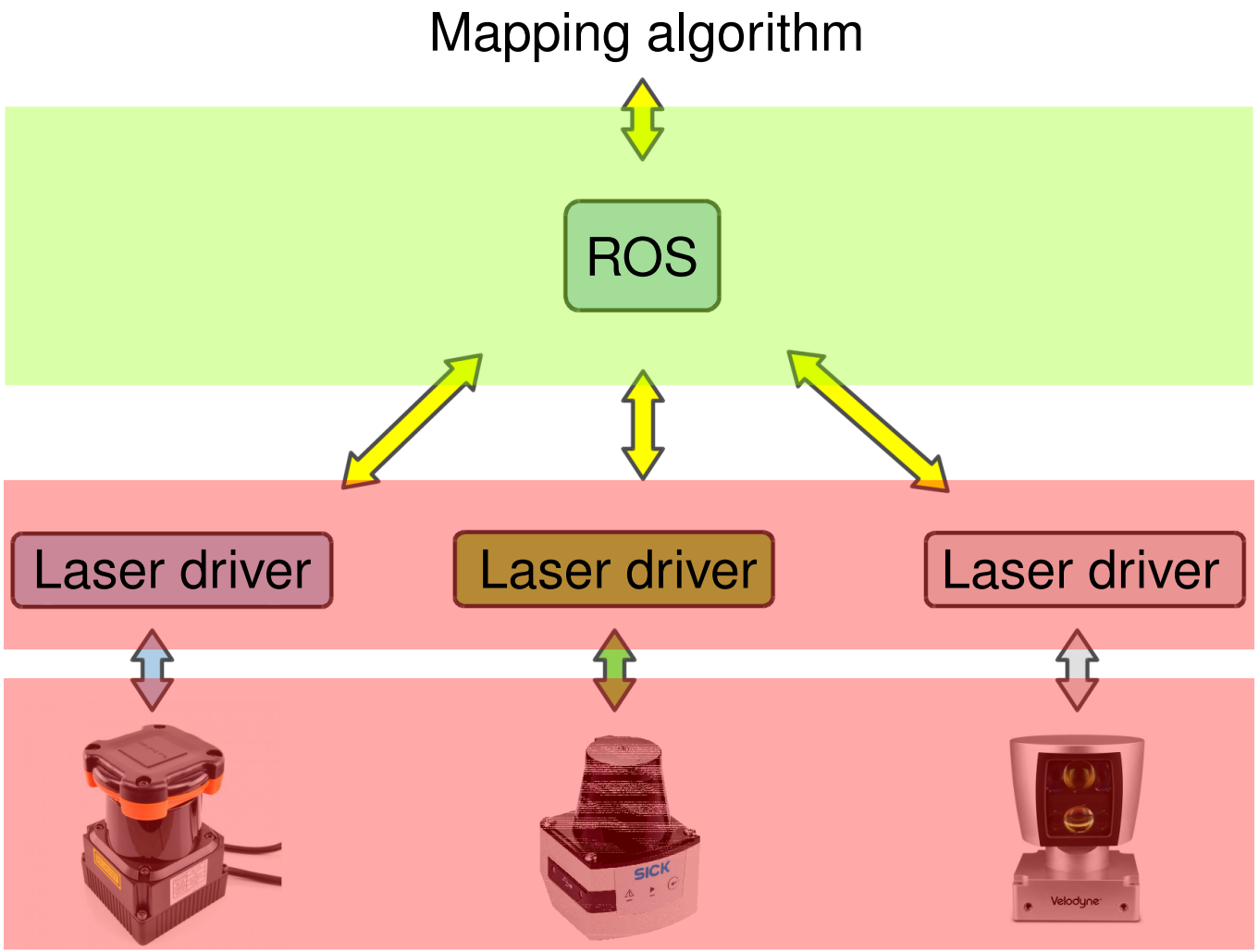


Data received in the same message format

Different drivers

Different hardware

Analogy Between ROS and Operating Systems



No change

Data received in the same message format

Different drivers

Different hardware

Analogy Between ROS and Operating Systems

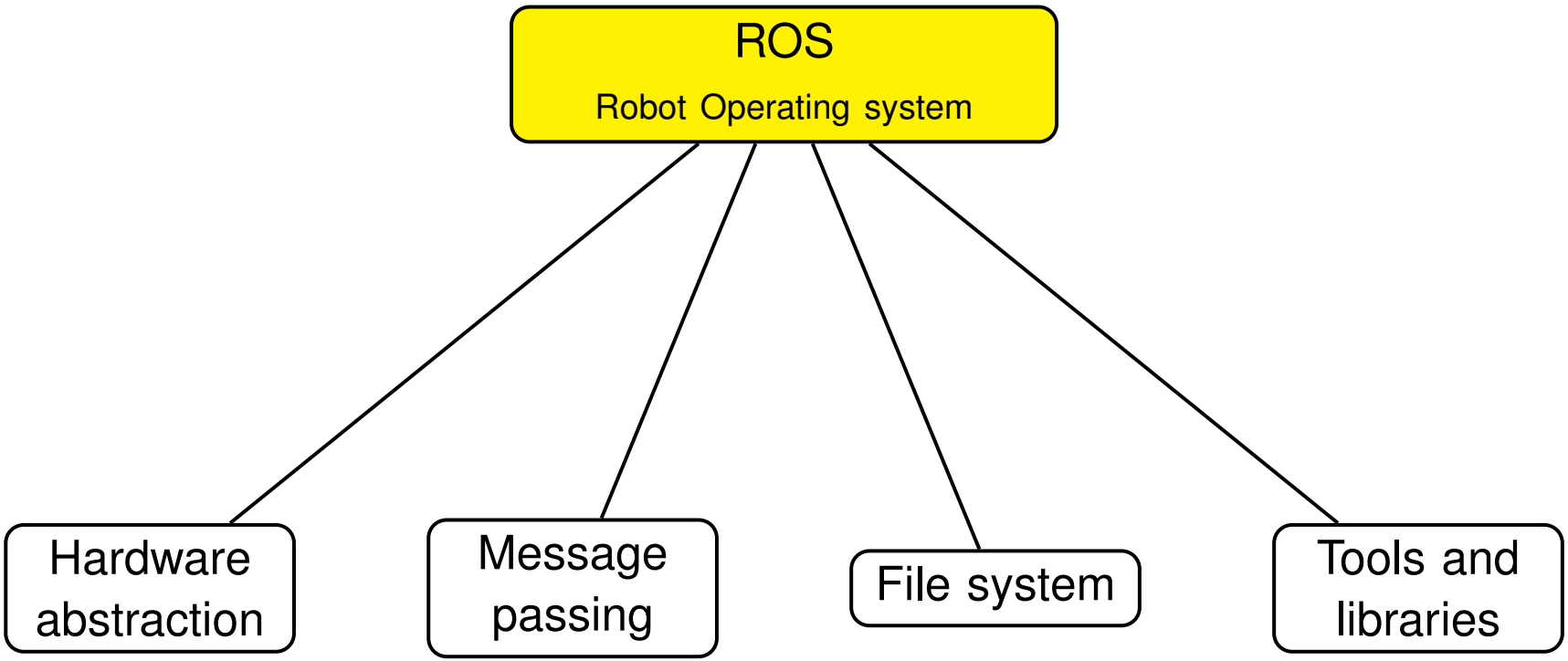
Mapping | Navigation | pick & place

Robot Applications

work on

Different hardware

Analogy Between ROS and Operating Systems



Features of ROS

- Language independent
- Distributed and modular
- A lot of libraries and tools
- Open source
- Active community

Features of ROS

Language independent

- ROS functionalities are implemented as a library in different programming languages (Python, C++, ...).
- These libraries are referred to as ROS client libraries.

Language independent

Features of ROS

ROS client libraries.

- Main ROS Client libraries:
  - roscpp
  - rospy
  - roslisp
- Experimental ROS client libraries:
  - rosjava
  - rosruby
  - rosnodejs
  - and some others..
- ROS support on MATLAB:
  - Robotics System Toolbox

Distributed and Modular

Features of ROS

- ROS supports running processes on multiple computers connected together through a LAN.
- In a system running ROS, there will be multiple of processes where each process can do certain task. A process can be changed without altering the remaining processes.

A lot of libraries and tools

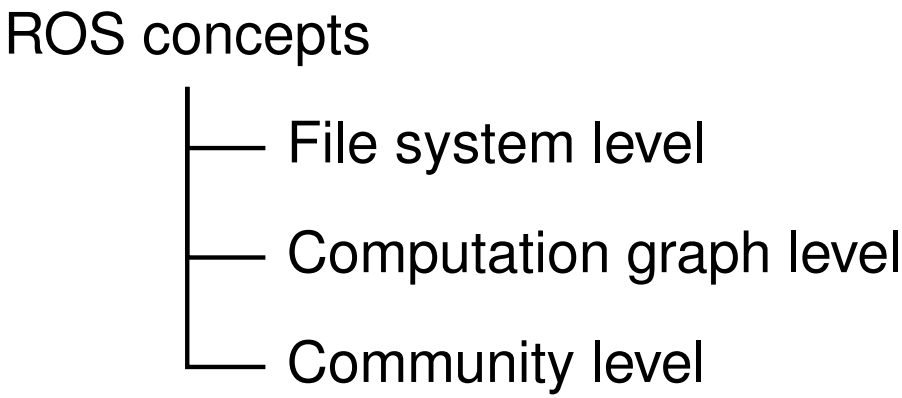
Features of ROS

- Examples of libraries:
  - Navigation stack
  - SLAM (gmapping, slam_toolbox, etc.)
  - Localization (amcl, etc.)
  - Motion planning for manipulators (MoveIt)
  - Support for popular libraries (OpenCV, PCL)
- Examples of tools:
  - rviz (3D visualization)
  - rosbag (recording/playing back sensor data)
  - catkin (build system)
  - Command line tools (roscd, rostopic, etc.)

Bad Things About ROS

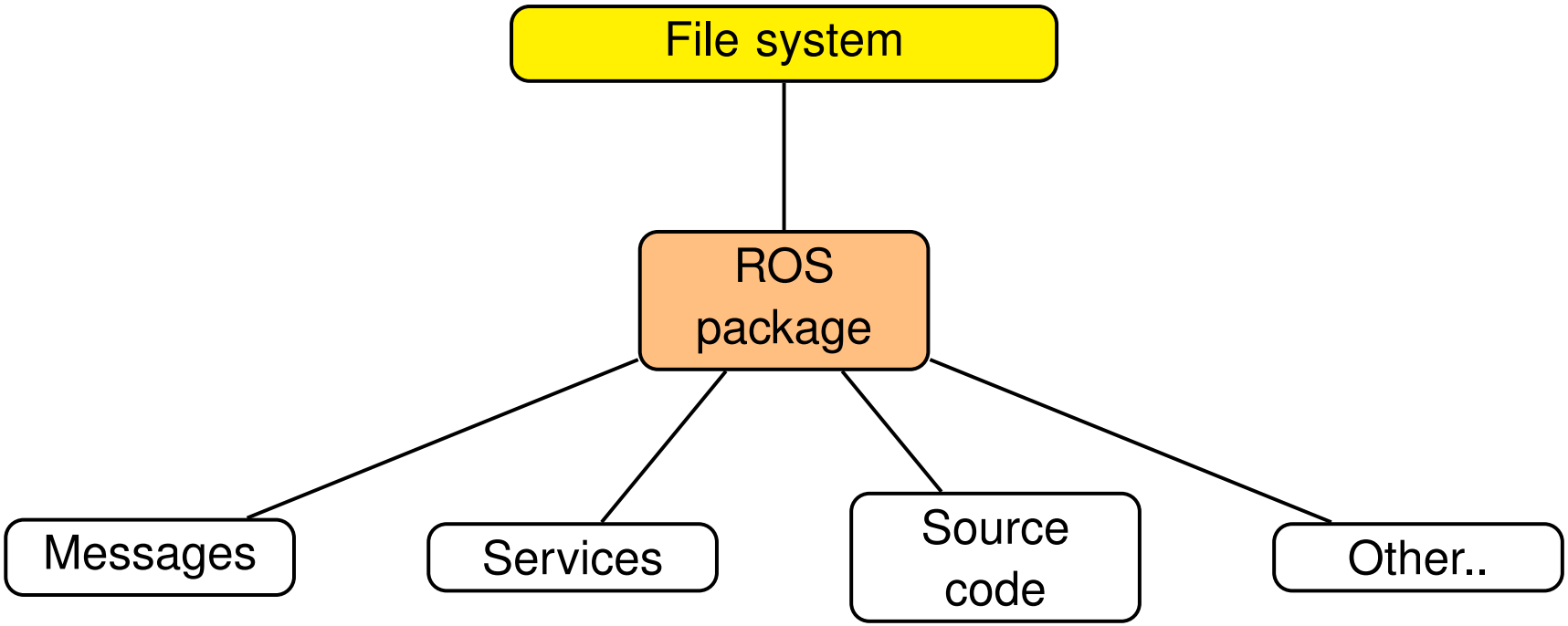
- Learning ROS needs time.
- It needs a PC. Does not work on a microcontroller at all (we can only set up a ROS node on the microcontroller)!
- Officially supported only on Ubuntu (but there are also experimental versions for Windows, OS X and more).
- No standard approach for multi-robot systems.
- Not a real distributed system, due to the ROS master.
- For ROS versions older than Noetic we are forced to "live in the past". ROS python client library (rospy) used python 2 instead of 3.

ROS Concepts



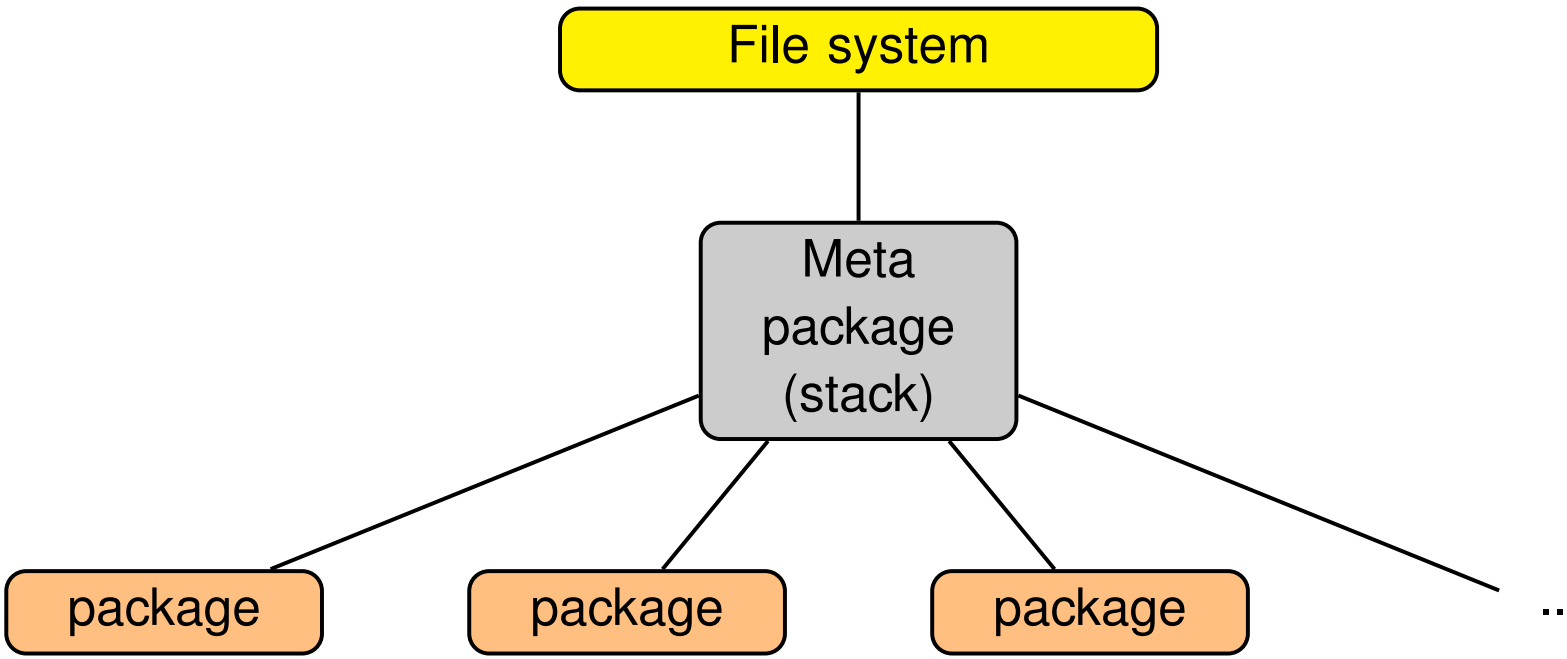
File system level

ROS Concepts



File system level

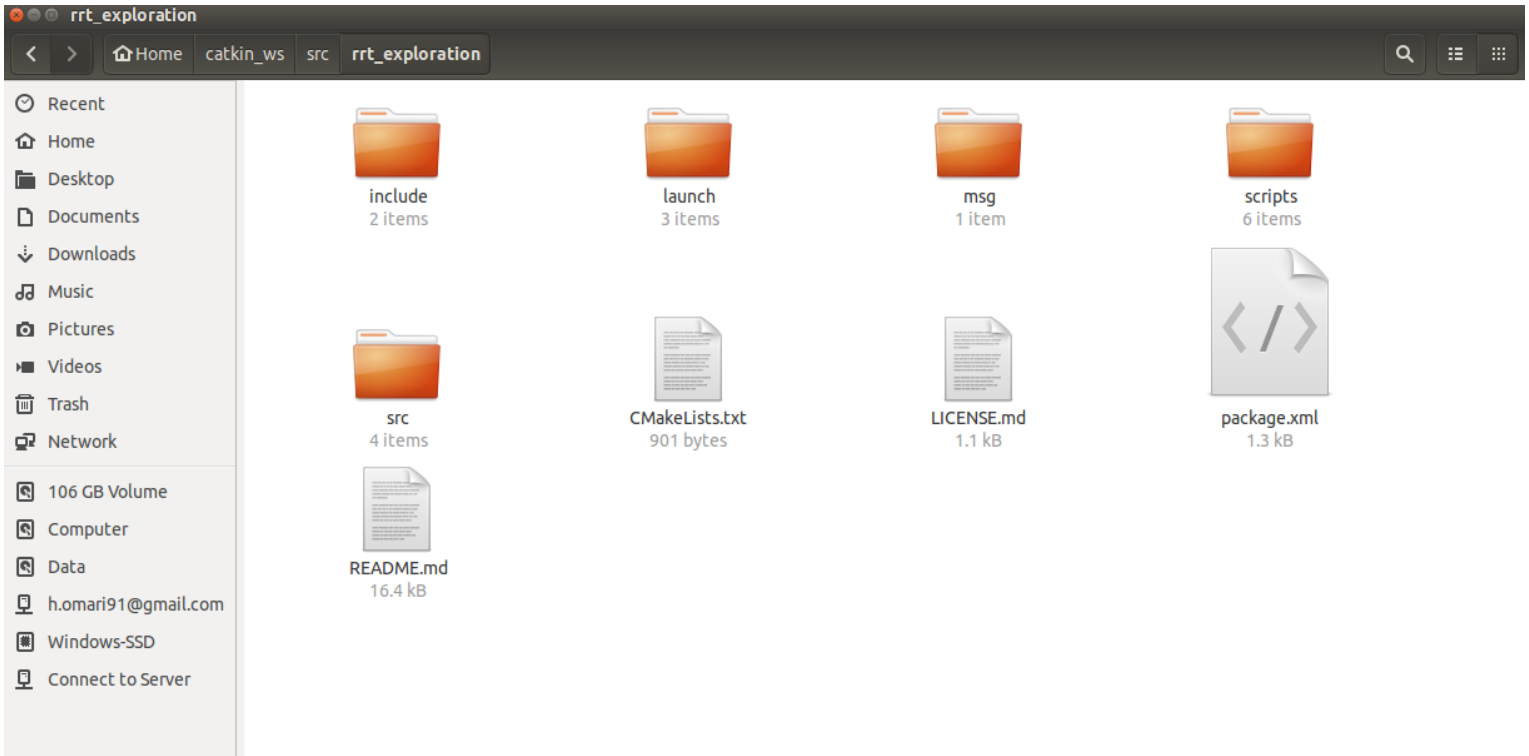
ROS Concepts



File system level

ROS Concepts

Inside a ROS package:



Computation graph level

ROS Concepts

- In an application that uses ROS, the computations are executed by a collection of processes called Nodes.
- Nodes are connected together in a peer-to-peer network.
- This network of nodes do all the computation and is referred to as ROS computation graph.
- ROS Nodes can be run on single or multiple computers.

Computation graph level

ROS Concepts

Concepts related to ROS computation graph:

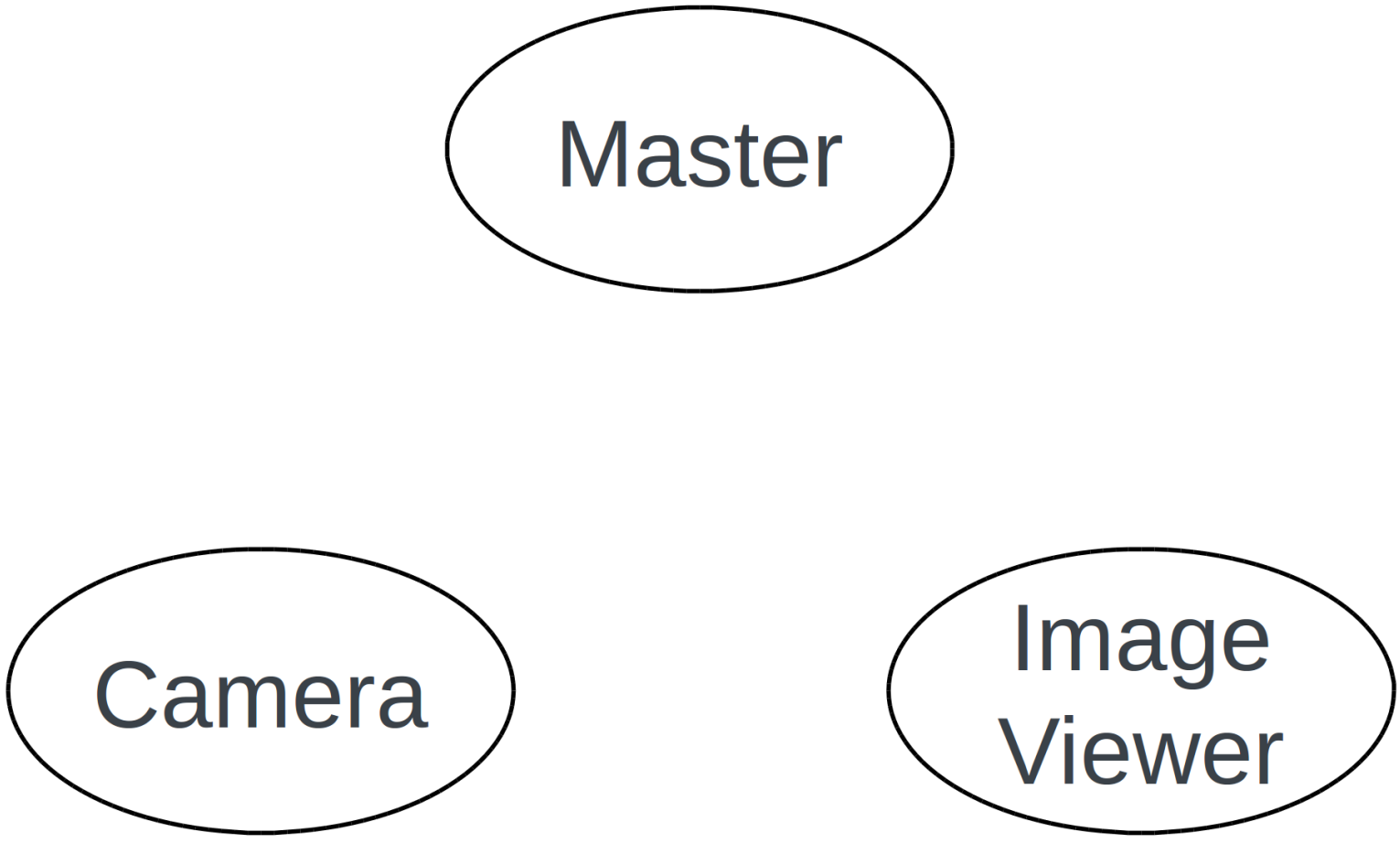
1. Master.
2. Nodes.
3. Topics.
4. Messages.
5. Services.
6. Actions
7. Parameter Server.
8. Bags.

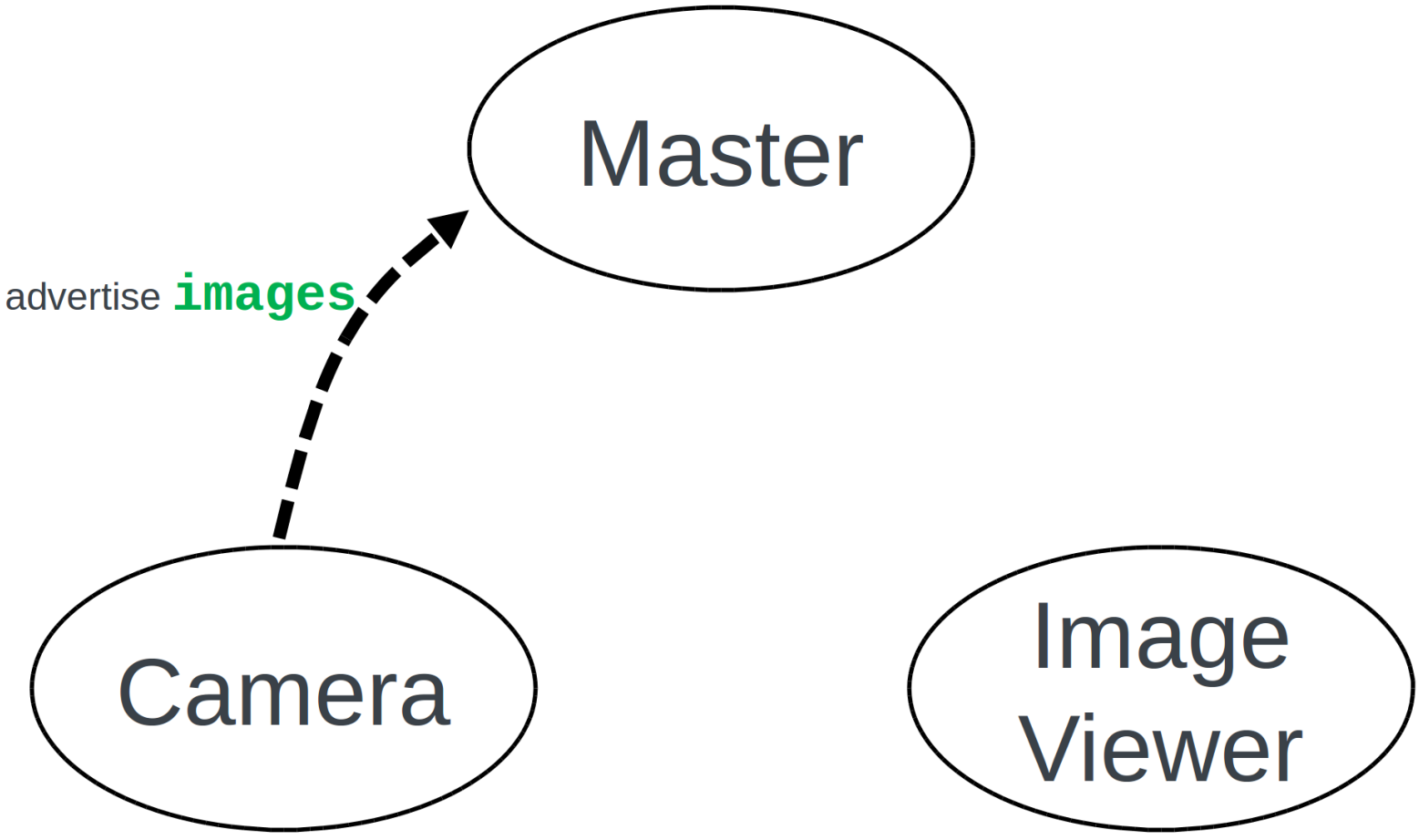
Computation graph level

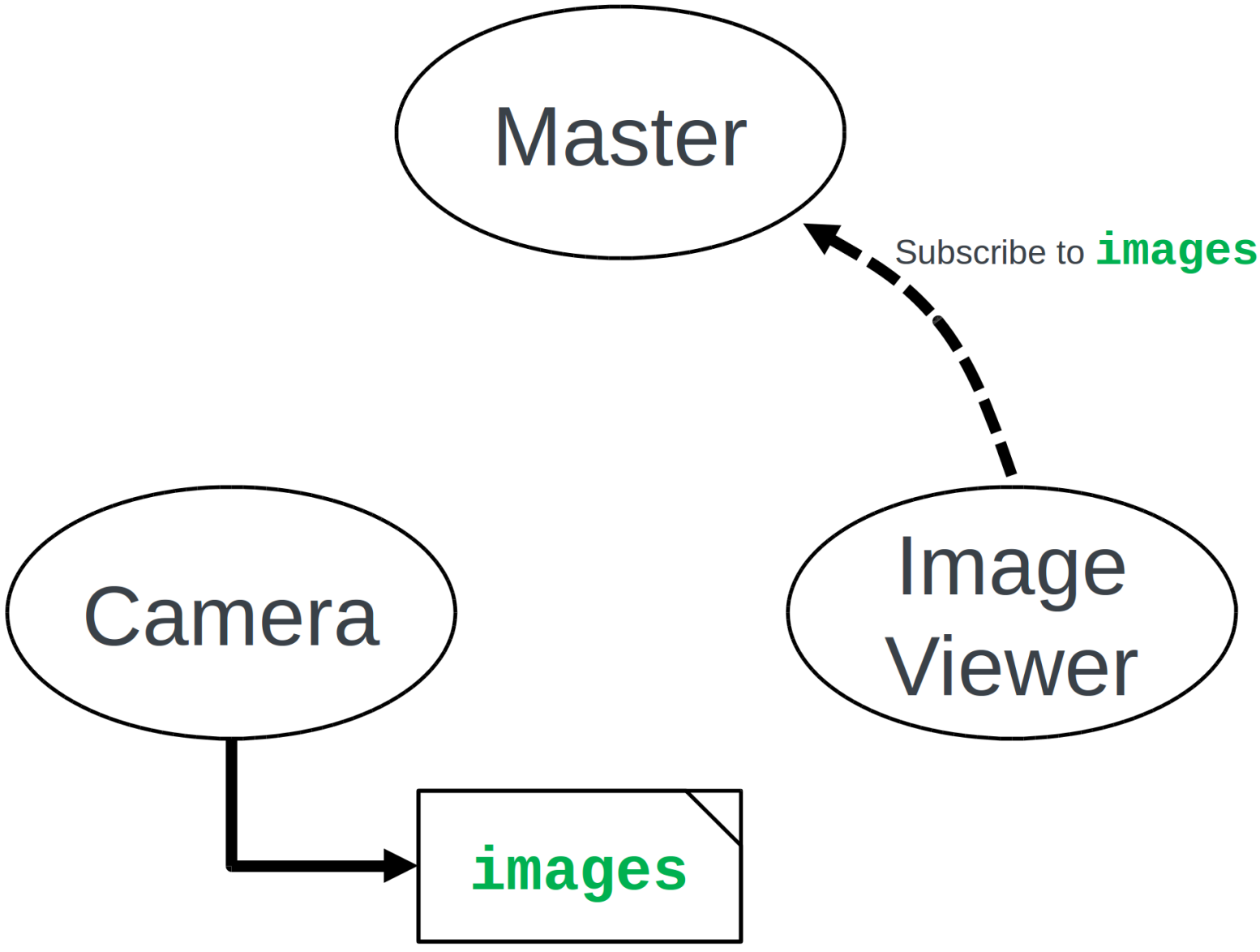
ROS Concepts

Master:

- The first process to run in an application that uses ROS, is the Master.
- The ROS Master provides name registration and lookup to the rest of the nodes.
- In a distributed system, we should run the master on one computer, and other remote nodes can find each other by communicating with this master.
- We run the node **roscore** for this purpose. It helps all nodes find each other and manages the communication with each other


Master
Camera
Image
Viewer


Master
advertise images
Camera
Image
Viewer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Subscribe to images
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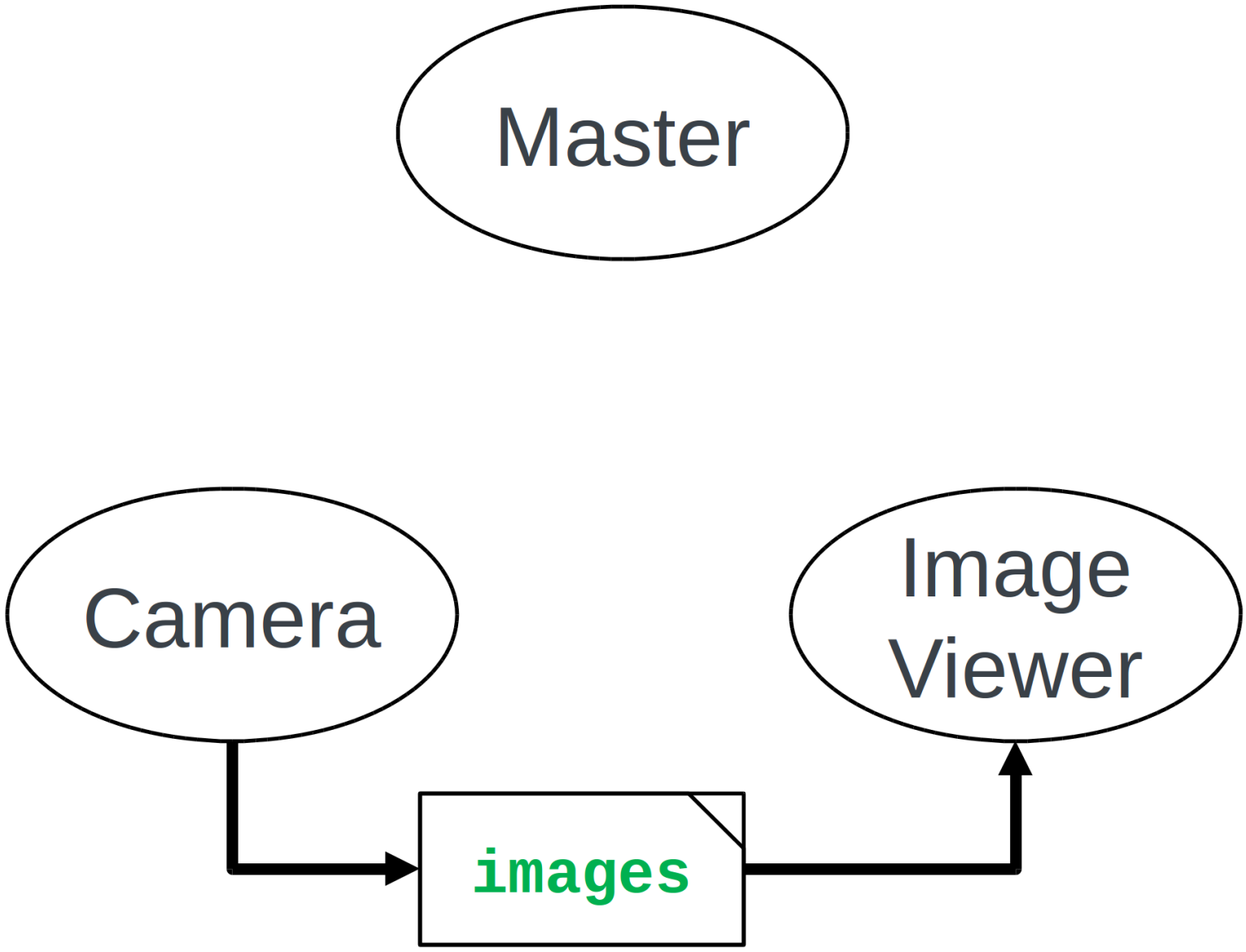
images


Master
Camera
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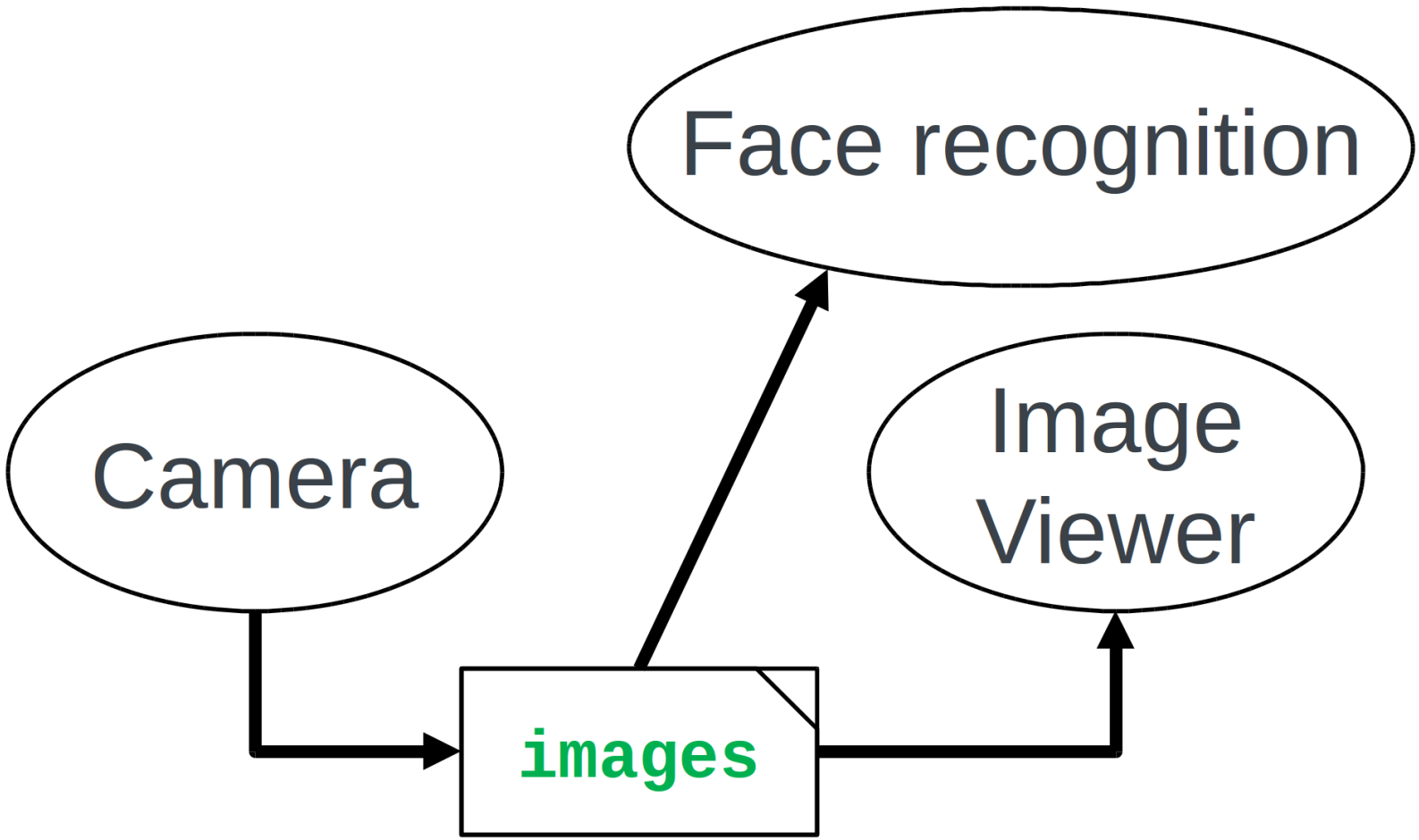
images

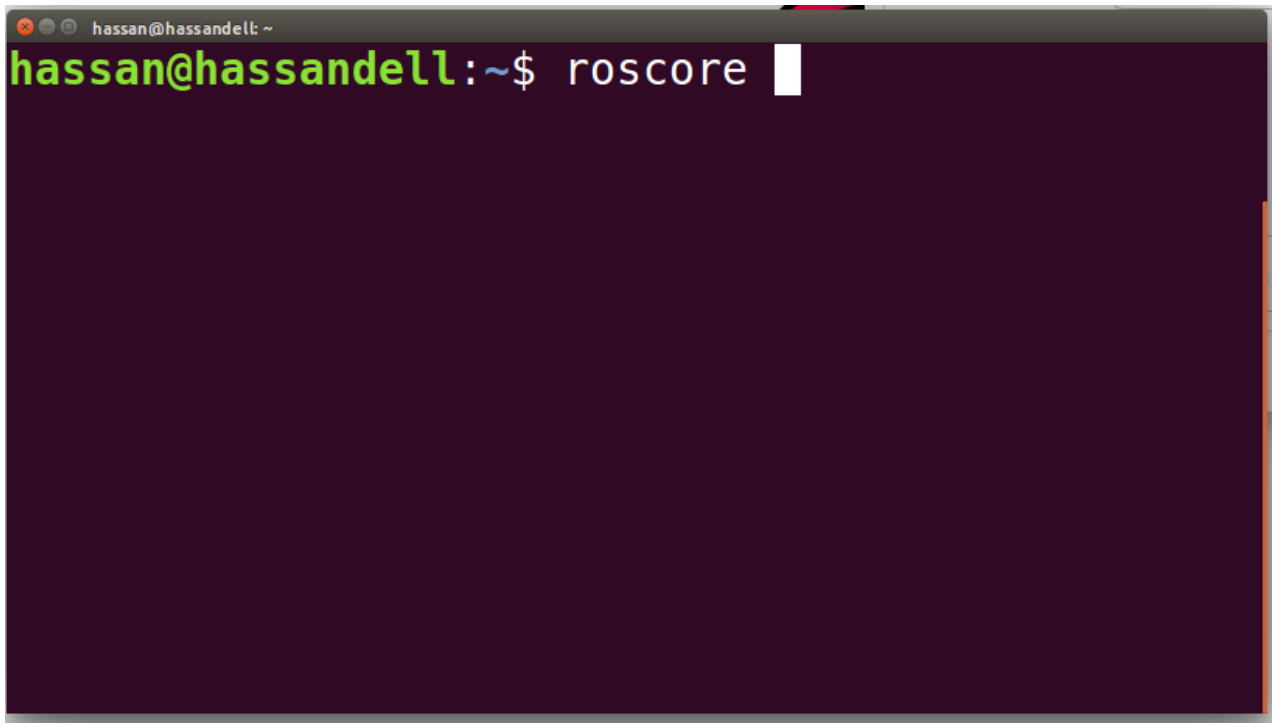

Face recognition
Camera
Image
Viewer
images

Computation graph level

ROS Concepts

Master:

- ROS master is invoked by this command:



Example (TurtleSim)

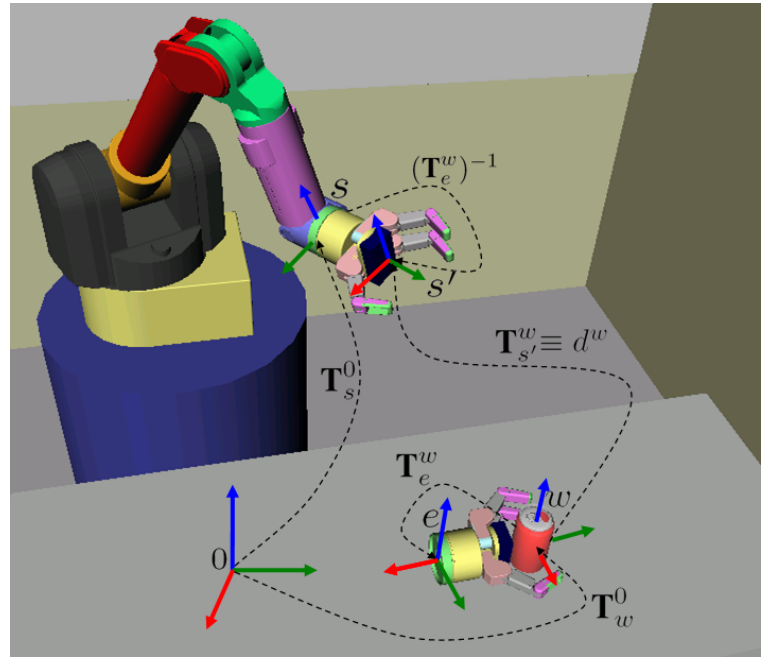
Computation graph level

ROS Concepts

Nodes:

- It is the basic functional block of code that performs a function eg publish to robot velocity(cmdvel), receive laser scan data(scan)
- A ROS node is a process that exchanges data with other processes through ROS network.
- It may be a python script, a C++ written process, or even a MATLAB script.
- The advantage of ROS is that you can write your nodes in different languages and can still make them work together

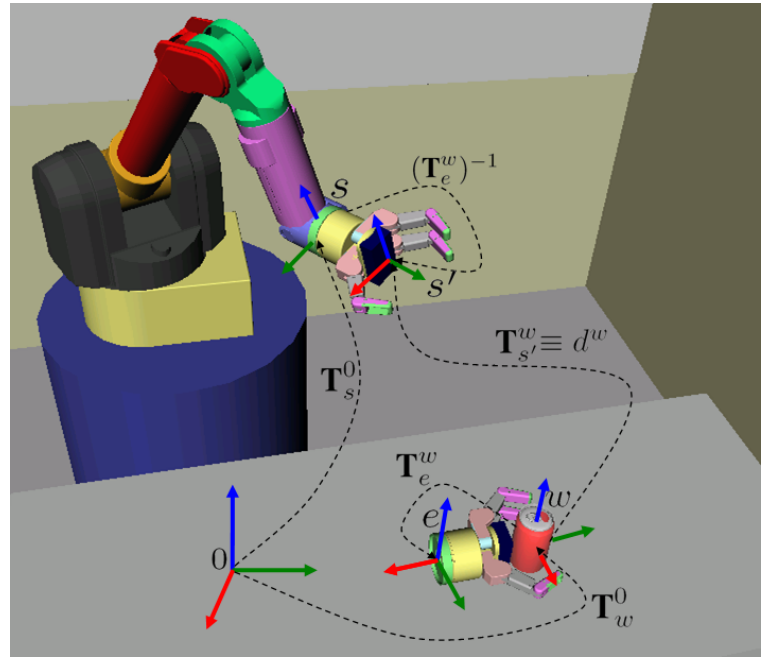

KINOVA



http://arm.eecs.umich.edu/images/TSR.png


XBOX 360
KINECT


KINOVA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s'
$\mathbf{T}_{s'}^w \equiv d^w$
$\mathbf{T}_s^0$
$\mathbf{T}_e^w$
e
w
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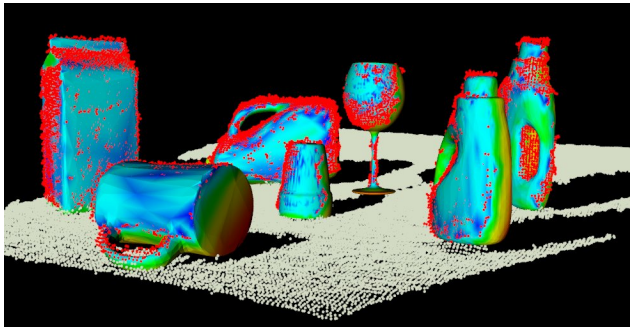
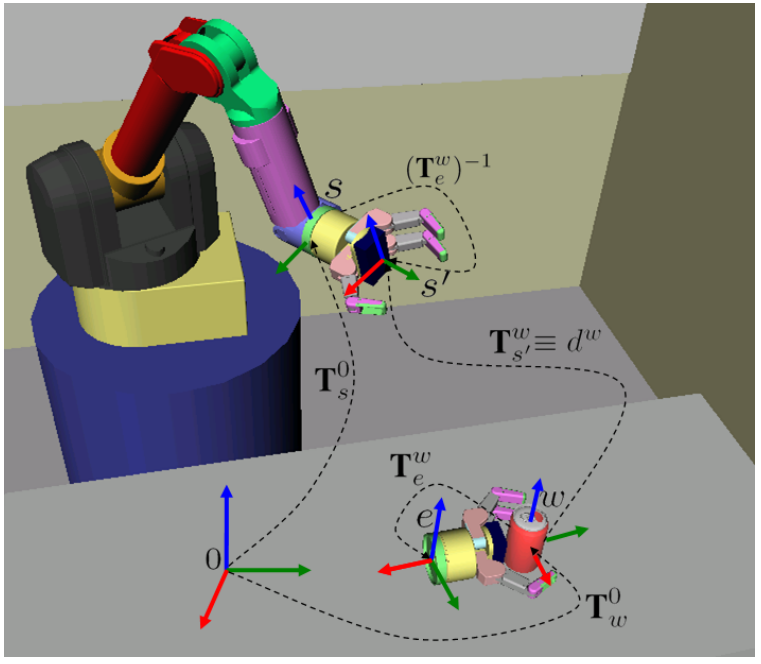
$\mathbf{T}_w^0$

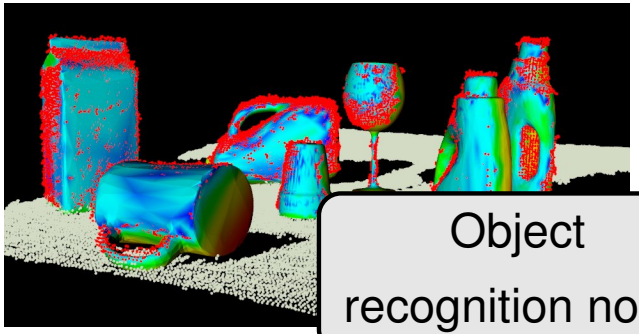


http://www.pointclouds.org/blog/_images/cvfh1.jpg



ROS master node

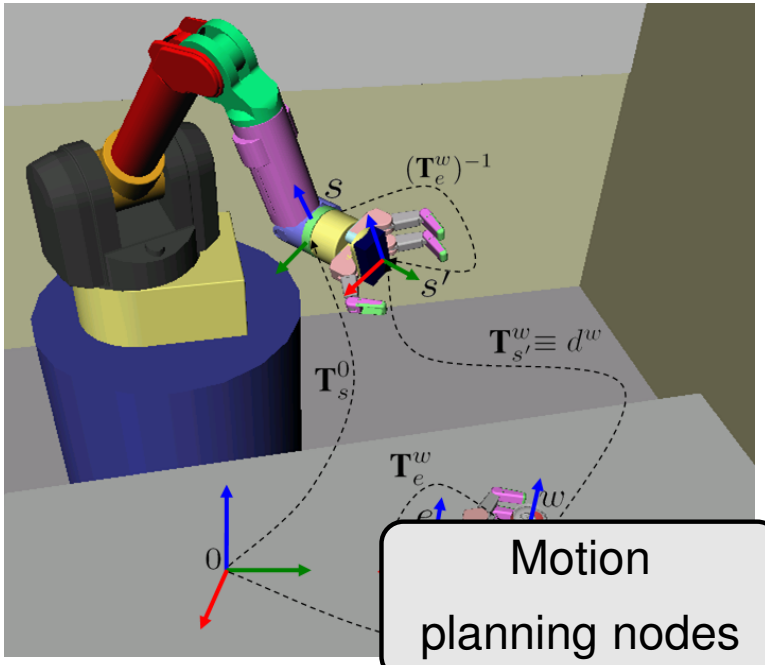
Camera driver node



Object recognition node

Manipulator driver node

Robot driver node



Motion planning nodes

Computation graph level

ROS Concepts

Topics and Messages:

- Nodes send data by publishing messages on a named topic.
- Nodes receive data by subscribing to a topic.
- Multiple nodes can publish/subscribe to the same topic.

Computation graph level

ROS Concepts

Topics and Messages:

- Publisher node publishes the messages on a topic at a chosen frequency.
- This **publish/subscribe** communication paradigm is a many-to-many one-way transport mechanism of data.
- The publishing node and subscribing node are not aware of each other's existence.
- Topic have a defined type eg: Rostopic cmd_vel has a type of \geometry_msgs\Twist

Computation graph level

ROS Concepts

Concepts related to ROS computation graph:

1. Master.
2. Nodes.
3. Topics.
4. Messages.
5. Services.
6. Actions
7. Parameter Server.
8. Bags.

Computation graph level

ROS Concepts

Services:

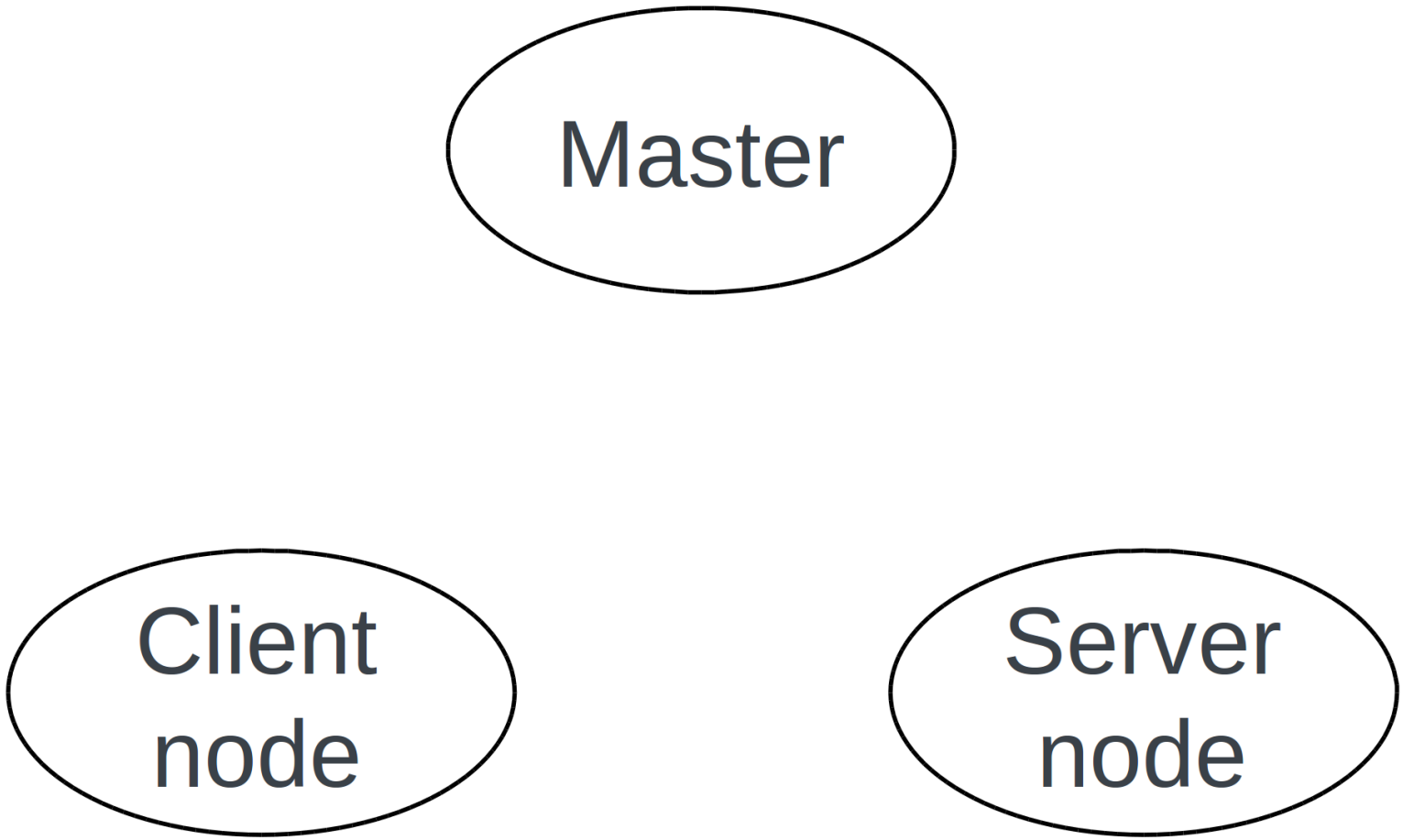
- In many scenarios a publish/subscribe model is not enough, it's a one-way communication.
- Example scenario: plan a path service.
- ROS Services provide an additional way of communication between nodes, a **request** / **reply** interaction.

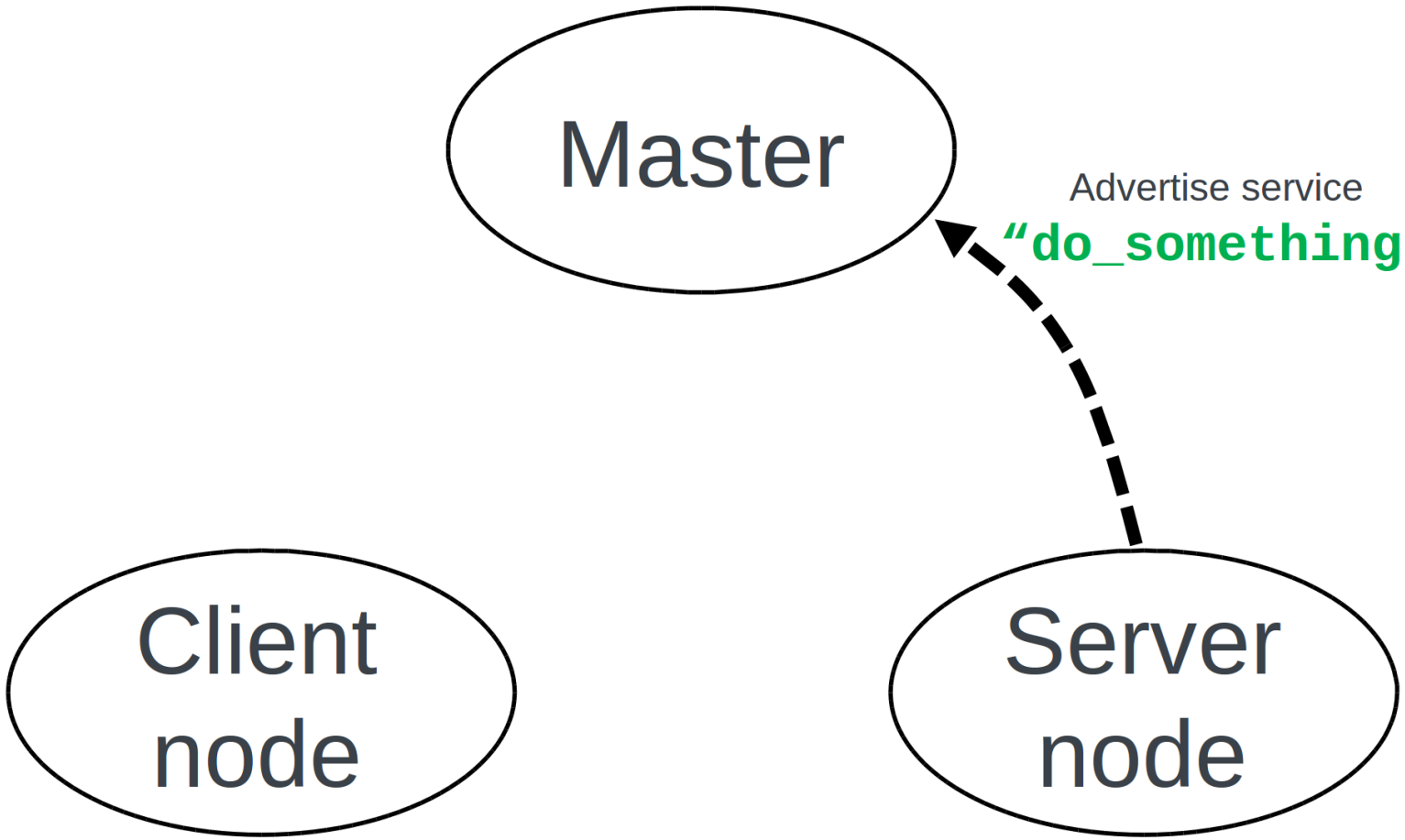
Computation graph level

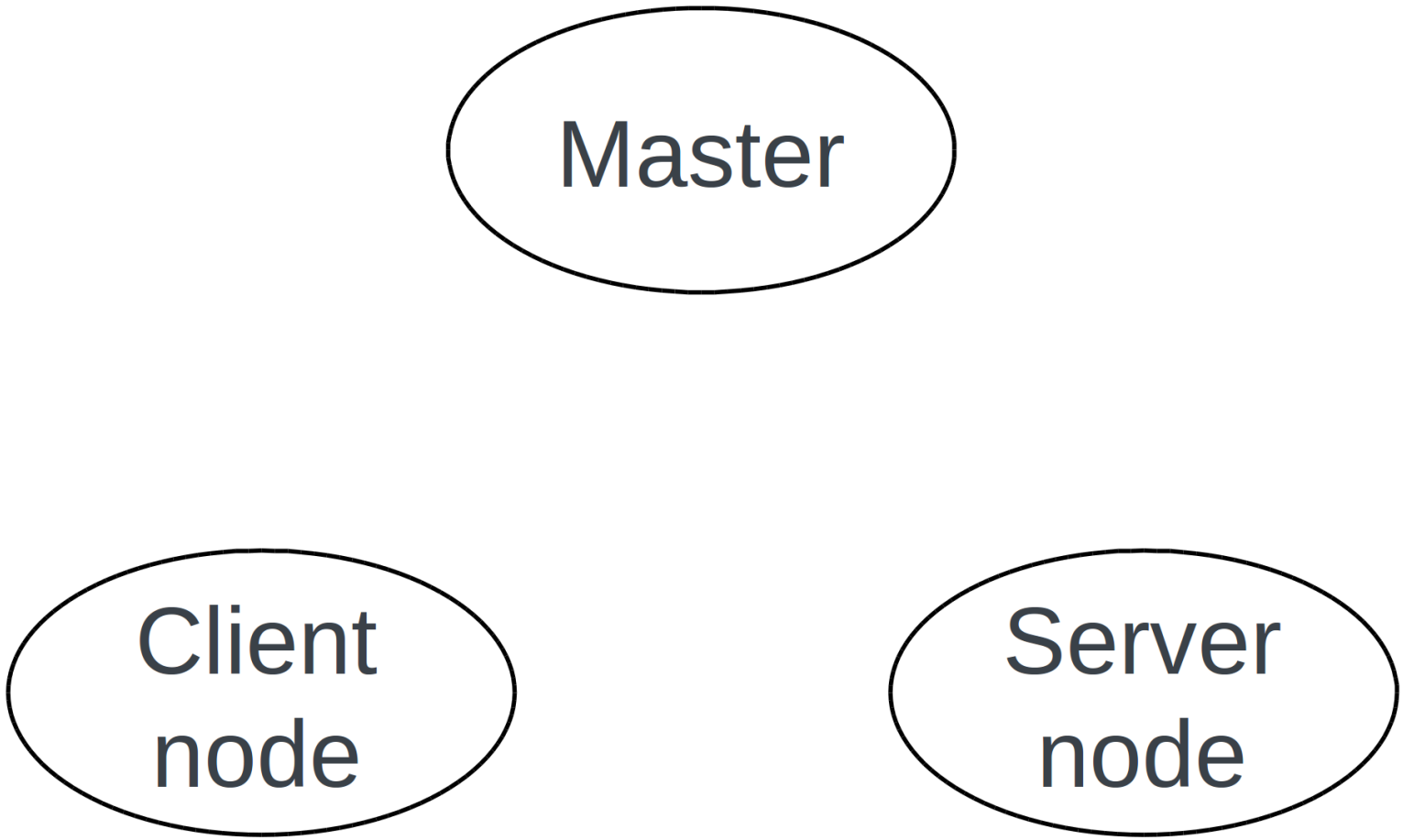
ROS Concepts

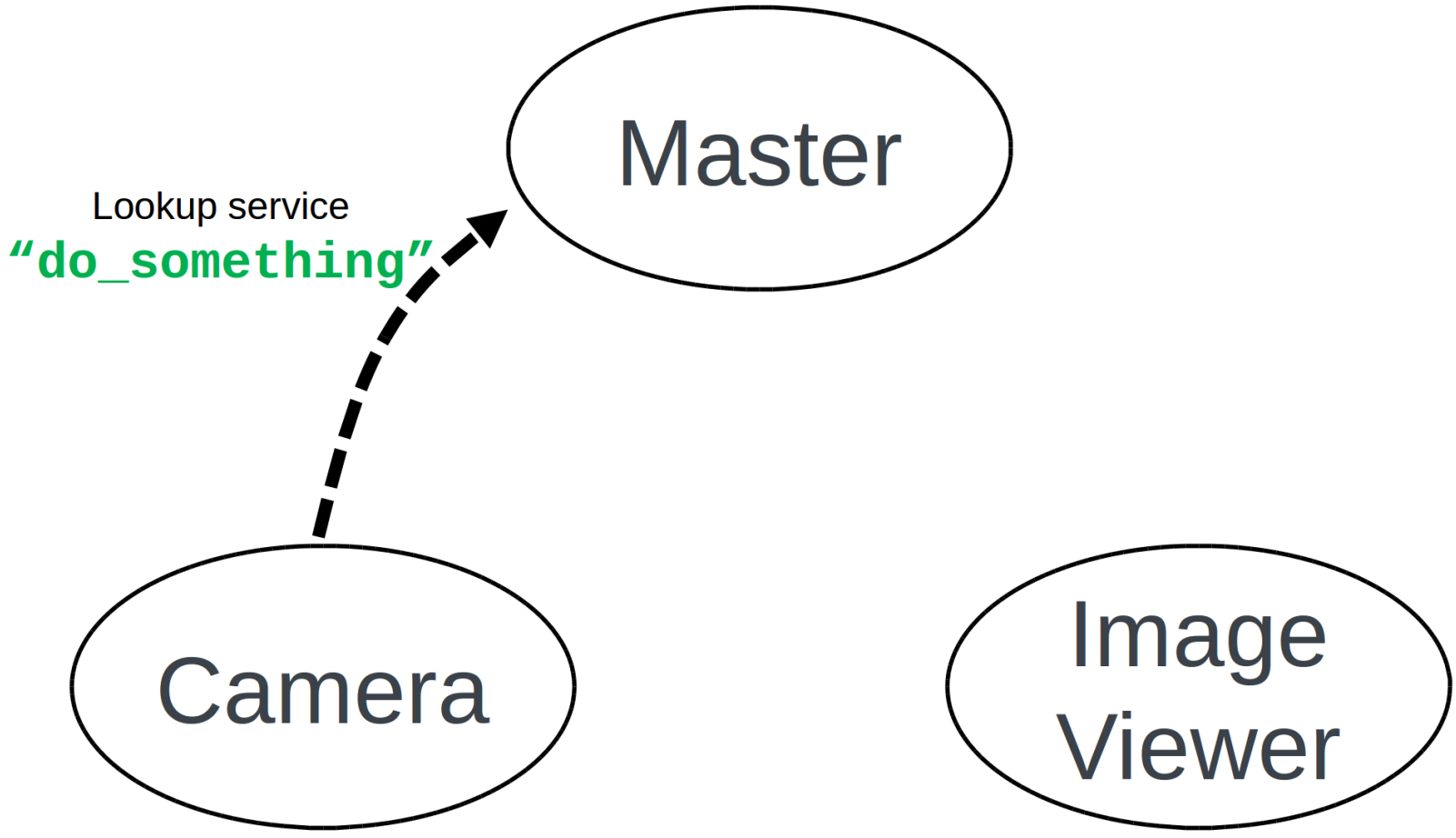
Services:

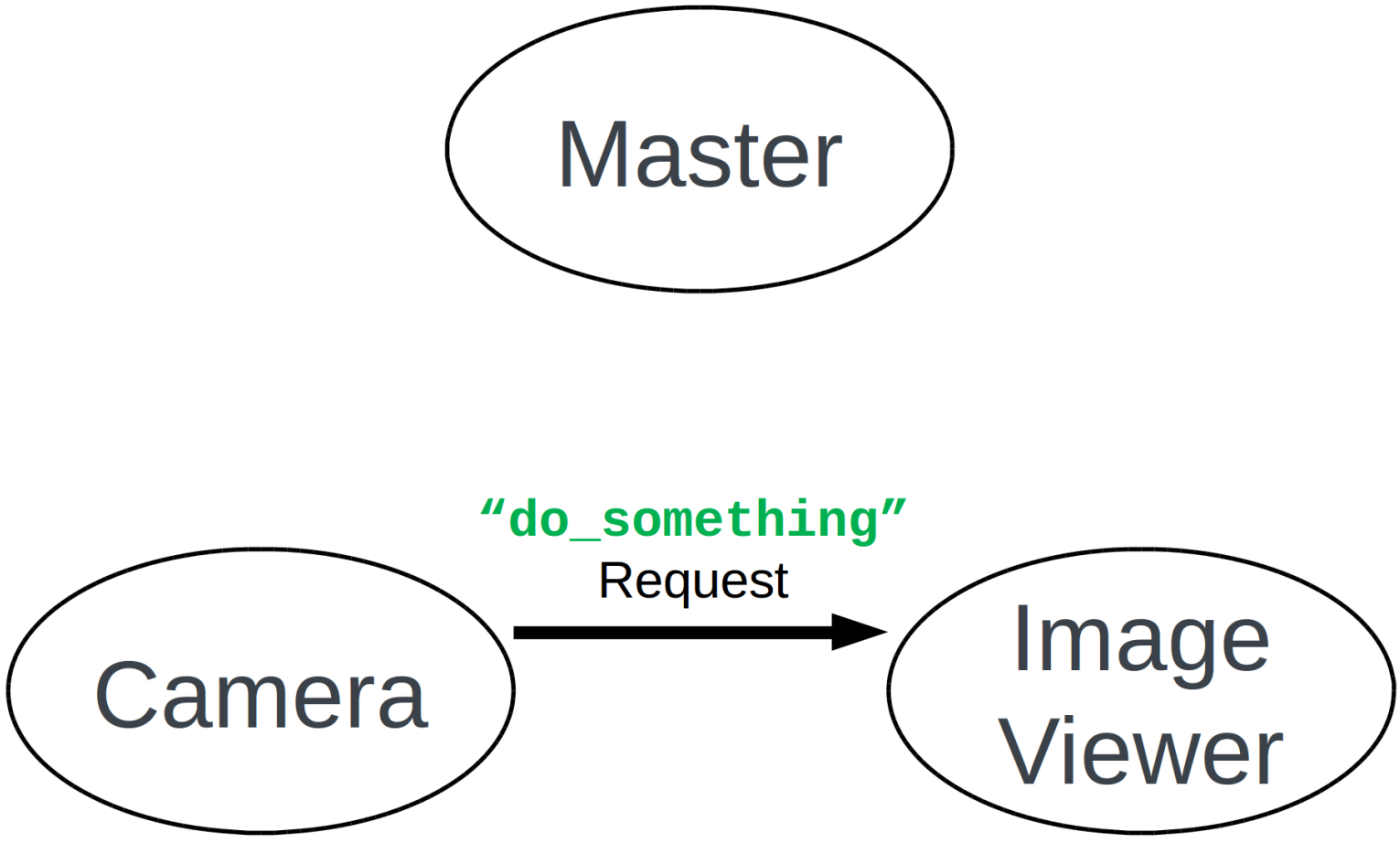
- It happens between two nodes, the service **server** node, and the service **client** node.
- A Client node sends a request for a named service and waits for the response, a node serving this service responds, and the communication is over.
- it is a one-to-one, two-way, one-time communication.

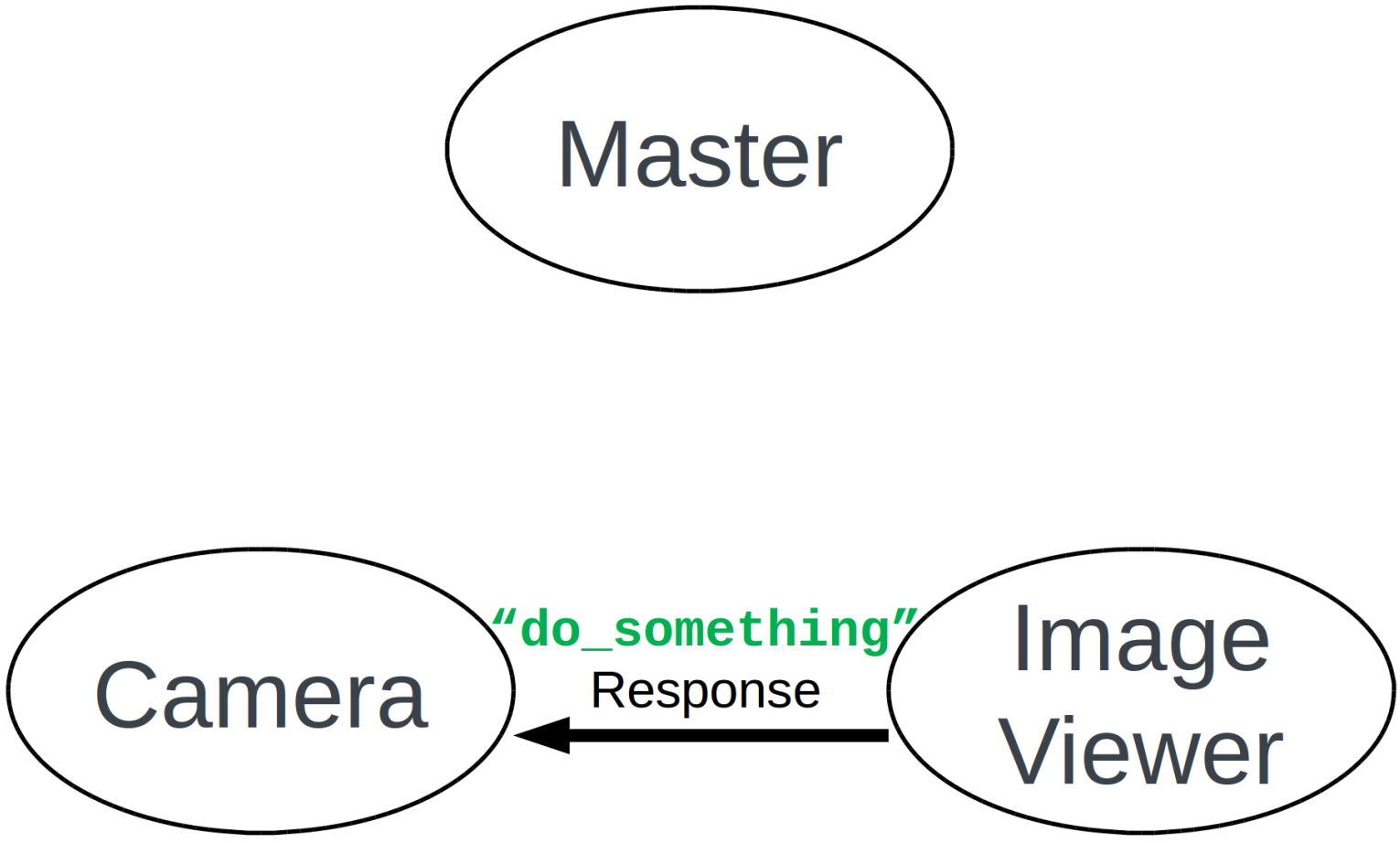

Master
Client node
Server node

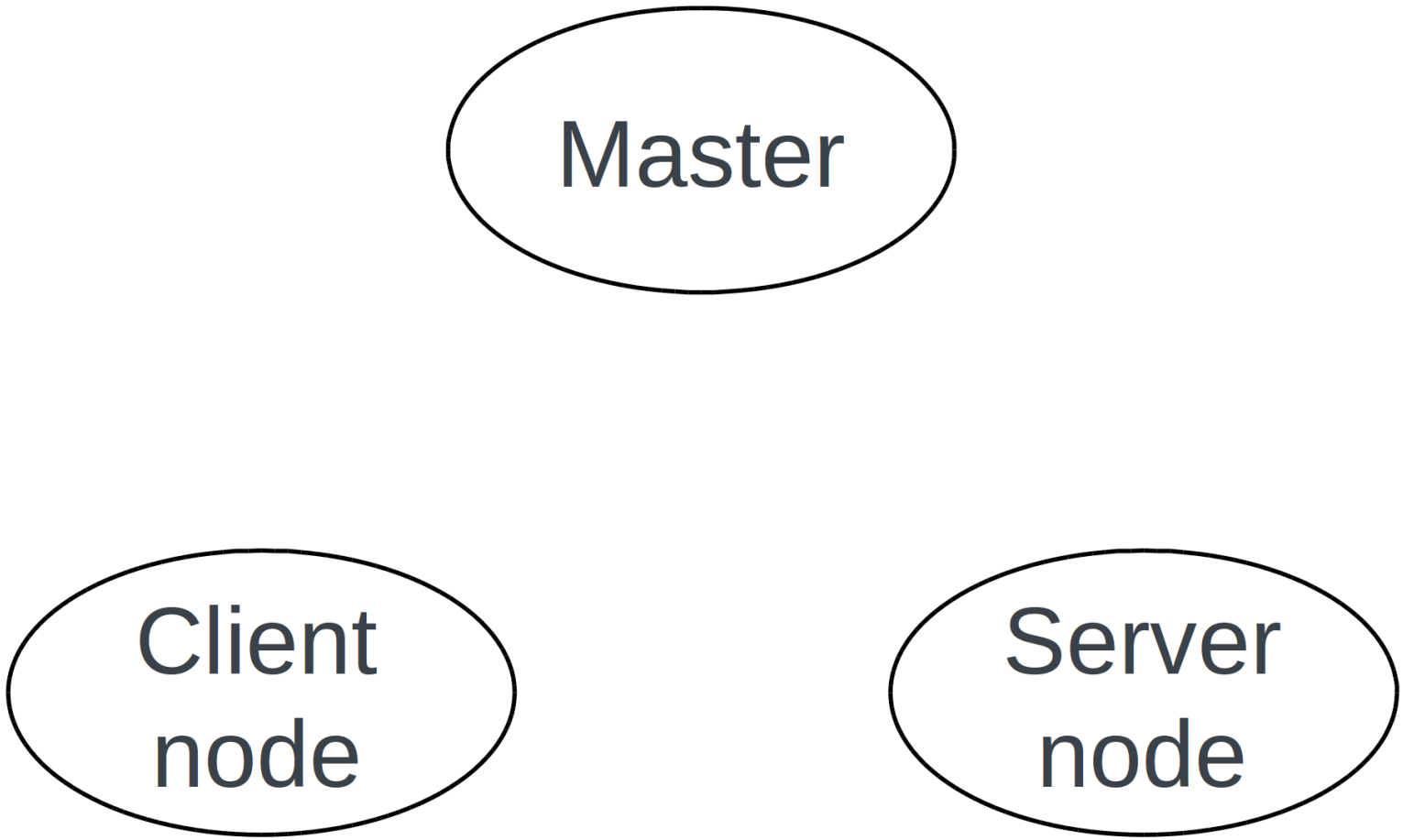

Master
Advertise service
“do_something”
Client node
Server node


Master
Client node
Server node


Master
Lookup service
“do_something”
Camera
Image
Viewer


Master
“do_something”
Request
Camera
Image
Viewer


Master
Camera
“do_something”
Response
Image
Viewer


Master
Client node
Server node

Example
(TurtleSim again)

Computation graph level

ROS Concepts

Actions:

- ROS services are not suitable for long-term tasks, a client that have sent a service request keeps on waiting for the response from the server. ROS actions solves this.
- ROS actions are also useful for preemptable tasks, i.e. tasks capable of being interrupted with the option of resuming the task at a later time.
- In ROS actions, an action client sends a request to the server, the client doesn't have to wait for the response.

Computation graph level

ROS Concepts

Actions:

- Action client can request for feedback which the action server provides during execution.
- The action nodes can perform other processes depending on this feedback eg: Send a goal to robot to move from point A to B but closer the robot gets to point B the robot can slow down
- Once the server finishes executing the task, it sends a result message to the client.

Computation graph level

ROS Concepts

Parameter Server:

- A network-shared dictionary accessible to all nodes.
- Typically used to store static data, like parameters and configurations.
- A central location to store static values.
- All nodes can access and modify those values.
- Parameter server is a part of ROS Master.

Computation graph level

ROS Concepts

Bags:

- ROS bag is a mechanism for recording data for later playback.
- You can record a complete session, with all the topics and messages being exchanged along with their time stamping.
- This is very useful for finding problems in the robot

Community level

ROS Concepts

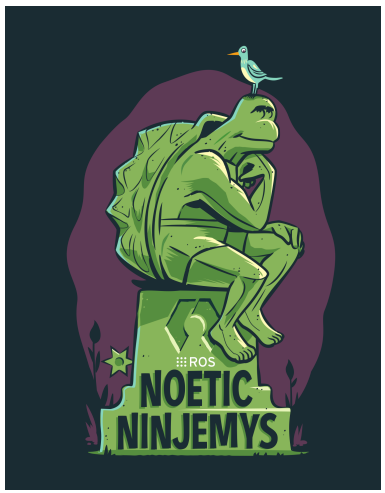
Concepts related to ROS development process and it's community:

1. The ROS Wiki.
2. Repositories.
3. Mailing Lists.
4. ROS Answers.
5. ROS Distributions.

Community level

ROS Concepts

ROS Distributions:



ROS Noetic
5.2020 - 5.2025
(LTS)
(Ubuntu 20 EOL)

ROS Melodic
5.2018 - 5.2023
(LTS)
(Ubuntu 18 EOL)

ROS Lunar
5.2017 - 4.2019

ROS Kinetic
5.2016 - 4.2021
(LTS)
(Ubuntu 16 EOL)

ROS posters are from: http://wiki.ros.org/Distributions

References

1. ROS Wiki.
2. ROS2 Wiki, on the drawbacks of ROS:

   http://design.ros2.org/articles/why_ros2.html.
3. Overview on ROS services: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhnlmrGQVvM.
4. Overview on ROS actions: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LoRXdNMuslQ.
5. ROS introduction slides by Rada:

   https://wiki.ros.org/Events/CoTeSys-ROS-School?action=AttachFile&do=get&target=ros_tutorial.pdf.
6. Previous material of the foundation_course.

Thank you

Any questions?