

# YouBot Project

Inspection, Development and Deployment of the KUKA YouBot  
Mobile Base

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Motivation

Section 1 done. draft #1

In the rapidly evolving field of robotics, expensive hardware platforms often become obsolete quickly. This is not because of physical wear and tear or a lack of functionality, but rather due to quick advancements in software and infrastructure. For example, artificial intelligence and machine learning have made significant strides in recent years, leading to the development of humanoid robots with advanced capabilities. As a result, older platforms become less relevant and lack the necessary support for extending their potential lifespan, despite inherent capabilities.

The KUKA YouBot is a prime example of this phenomenon. It was once a popular platform for research and education in robotics in the mid-2010s, but has been since discontinued and is no longer supported by the manufacturer. This mobile robot base is quite robust, compact and utilizes open-source drivers. It can potentially serve a variety of purposes, including autonomous navigation, perception and human-robot interaction with modern tools and sensors. Instead of discarding such platforms, we should explore these avenues to extend their lifespan and utility.

Thus, this project aims to explore the potential of deploying and repurposing legacy robotic hardware like the KUKA YouBot within the current landscape of robotics. By doing so, we can demonstrate the potential of long-term viability of older platforms whilst allowing for smooth integration with other systems.

## 1.2 Project Overview

This project aims to document the reployment and quantitative measurement of the KUKA YouBot's capabilities, particularly in terms of navigation and odometry.

Section 2 provides an overview of the initial state of the YouBot, including its hardware and software components, as well as a brief description of the initial goals of the project. Section 3 outlines the technical and learning objectives of the project. Section 4 describes the system development process, including network configuration, battery and sensor deployment, and custom program development. This follows into section 5, which details an experimental setup for testing movement and odometry. Section 6 discusses future potential for the YouBot for long-term research and industrial use cases, and section 7 concludes the report with a personal reflection on the project and its outcomes. The appendix includes a user manual for the YouBot, as well as relevant code files and experiment data.

## 2 Initial state of YouBot

Section 2 done. draft #1

The YouBot is a mobile robotic platform developed by German automation company KUKA. First introduced in the early 2010s [cite], it was primarily designed for research and educational purposes in the field of mobile robotics. To further this purpose, a significant portion of software used on the YouBot is open-source and available on GitHub [cite].

The YouBot typically consists of two main parts: a mobile base and a robotic arm. The mobile base is equipped with four omnidirectional mecanum wheels and motors for movement, alongside an onboard computer for processing and control. This onboard computer runs Ubuntu and ROS1, with conveniently provided drivers and wrappers, allowing for smooth software integration. The robotic arm has 5 degrees of freedom (DOF) and a two-finger gripper [cite], enabling it to perform a variety of tasks through the onboard computer. Since this project involves only the mobile base, we will not be discussing the arm in detail.

The YouBot's open-source software stack and ROS compatibility provide a versatile foundation for both low-level hardware interfacing and high-level algorithm development. This robot and the attached sensor modules are thus particularly well-suited for research within mobile robotics, particularly those pertaining to navigation, perception and human-robot interaction.



(a) The robot with the robotic arm attached. [cite]



(b) The robot as used in the Aalto University Robotics Lab.

Figure 1. The YouBot.

### 2.1 Onboard Computer

The onboard computer features a Intel Atom D510 @ 1.66GHz processor, with a 2GB DDR2 RAM and 32GB SSD hard drive.

The computer currently runs Ubuntu 12.04.5 LTS with ROS Hydro, which is a decade-old version of the operating system and the robot operating system. Given the age of the OS and ROS, compatibility with modern libraries and software is limited. Essential drivers and wrappers were also available to enable communication with the robot's motors and sensors. These could be accessed directly through C++ programs or through ROS packages. For the purposes of this project, we have elected to focus on the latter to allow for a seamless

integration with the ROS ecosystem in the future, alongside a level of standardization and ease of use.

## 2.2 Connection Interfaces

To interface with the onboard PC, the YouBot features panels with several connection ports. The top panel of the robot contains two EtherCAT ports for consistent real-time communication with motion-oriented systems (i.e. robotic manipulators), and a standard Ethernet port for wired interfacing with an external computer or network. Adjacent to these communication ports are a power button and a small screen that displays input voltage and ON/OFF state of the onboard PC and motors (Figure 2b). Furthermore, the right side of the robot features a panel with a VGA port for video output, as well as six USB 2.0 ports for connecting peripherals such as a keyboard, mouse, or wireless adapter (Figure 2a).



(a) The right side of the robot, showing the VGA and USB ports.



(b) The onboard computer screen, alongside the power button and EtherCAT/Ethernet ports.

Figure 2. Connection points on the YouBot.

## 2.3 Power

The YouBot is powered by a 24V power supply, which can be connected through a 3-pin XLR connector located on the top panel of the robot. Additionally, the base includes two 24V 3-pin XLR output ports, which are intended for powering external components such as robotic manipulators or sensors (Figure 3a).



(a) The power input and output ports.



(b) The 24V power adapter used to power the YouBot.

Figure 3. Power supply components for the YouBot.

However, continuously powering the YouBot through a wall connection is not ideal for the goal of mobile robotics. Thus, the YouBot was also originally equipped with a sealed lead-acid (SLA) battery (Figure 4a). This battery had a capacity of 5Ah and provided an approximate runtime of 90 minutes. This battery furthermore connects to the robot via a 4-pin XLR connector, and is located in a dedicated slot on the left side of the robot (Figure 4b).



(a) The original SLA battery.

(b) The left side of the robot, showing the battery in its holder.

Figure 4. Power supply connection points of the YouBot.

Upon receiving the robot, four SLA batteries were available: three of them were the original units supplied with the YouBot, and the fourth was a makeshift replacement assembled by the lab engineer, Vesa Korhonen, in 2019. Unfortunately, none of these batteries were functional. The original units had degraded beyond usability, and the makeshift battery had similarly deteriorated over time.

As a result, the robot could not operate on battery power in its current state and required a constant wired connection to a wall outlet—an obvious limitation for a mobile robotics platform. A battery replacement would be ideal to restore the robot’s potential mobility.

## 2.4 Sensors

Alongside the robot base and various hardware components, the YouBot was also equipped with a variety of sensors to enhance perception and navigation. These included a Kinect v1 camera and two Hokuyo URG-04LX laser rangefinders.

### 2.4.1 Kinect

The Kinect v1 camera is a depth and RGB camera that was originally designed and sold in tandem with the XBOX 360 to support motion tracking and gaming. Due to its low cost, high availability and ease of use, it had indirectly become a popular choice in the robotics community for perception tasks.

Access to the Kinect’s sensor data can be achieved through the use of open-source software such as libfreenect [cite]. The retrieved data can then be processed using computer vision libraries such as OpenCV to enable the autonomous navigation as previously described.



Figure 5. The Kinect v1 camera module.

#### 2.4.2 Hokuyo URG-04LX Laser Rangefinder

The Hokuyo URG-04LX is a lightweight 2D laser rangefinder that is commonly used in robotics research. It provides high-resolution distance measurements in a 240-degree field of view and can detect objects up to 4 meters away with an accuracy of  $\pm 10$  mm. It communicates with the onboard computer using a serial interface, enabling straightforward integration into existing systems for mapping, localization, and obstacle avoidance tasks.



Figure 6. The Hokuyo URG-04LX laser rangefinder.

### 2.5 Additional Hardware Components

The YouBot also came with a variety of additional components and accessories to assist with sensor mounting and operation. These included a variety of nuts, bolts, and screws, as well as a hex key and several horizontal and vertical pillars. These pillars can be combined in a variety of ways to create a stable and secure mounting platform for the sensors.

A key component provided was a pre-attached sensor and mounting plate on the top panel (see Figure 1b), designed to allow for the convenient attachment of various sensors and accessories [cite <https://web.archive.org/web/20160613151621/http://www.youbot-store.com/accessories/mounting-and-sensor-plate>]. Additionally, a separate box contained various miscellaneous items, including previously used batteries, panels for the Youbot and controllers; which could prove potentially useful for customization or repair.



(a) Various pillars, nuts and bolts amongst other components.  
(b) The box containing previously used batteries and miscellaneous components.

Figure 7. Additional hardware components supplemented with the YouBot.

## 2.6 Documentation

The documentation for the KUKA YouBot is sparse. Since the product's discontinuation in the mid-2010s, KUKA has removed most references to the product from their official website, and the official website for the YouBot ([youbot-store.com](http://youbot-store.com)) is no longer active. The only starting point for official documentation was through a user manual dated 2013 found on the onboard PC.

Fortunately, as the YouBot was marketed as an open-source platform, many of its drivers and software components remain available on the YouBot GitHub repositories [\[cite\]](#). Furthermore, we leveraged the Wayback Machine [\[cite\]](#) to retrieve snapshots of the original website. While this archive is incomplete and tedious to comb through, they provide valuable insights into the hardware specifications, software stack, and applications of the YouBot during its active development period. Some notable websites include [janpaulus.github.io](https://janpaulus.github.io), which provides a comprehensive overview of the YouBot's hardware and software components, and the YouBot Wiki, which contains limited information on setting up the YouBot.

[add images of some of the more interesting websites here, and some of the images regarding the youbot's specifications.](#)

## 2.7 Initial Project Goals

Considering the hardware and software components of the YouBot, the initial goals of this project involved a comprehensive revival of the robot and the enabling of autonomous navigation using the Kinect camera. This would showcase the potential of the YouBot in cutting-edge research despite its age.

The Teach & Repeat (T&R) method was considered to be an ideal candidate to allow for autonomous navigation. This[\[cite\]](#) is a two-phase robotic navigation method where a robot is first "taught" a path via human guidance or pre-recorded data. The sensor data captured during this phase can then be used to allow the robot to autonomously "repeat" the path later on, even in different environments.

T&R only requires a single camera for a basic implementation. It is a relatively simple method to implement through the use of open-source software and libraries, such as OpenCV and ROS. Furthermore, it is robust to changes in the environment and can

dynamically correct errors through the use of visual odometry. As such, it has been a very popular research topic within the field of robotics, particularly in the context of mobile robots [cite]. Much of the work done on extending T&R aims to improve this robustness and scalability for a variety of sensors and use-cases.

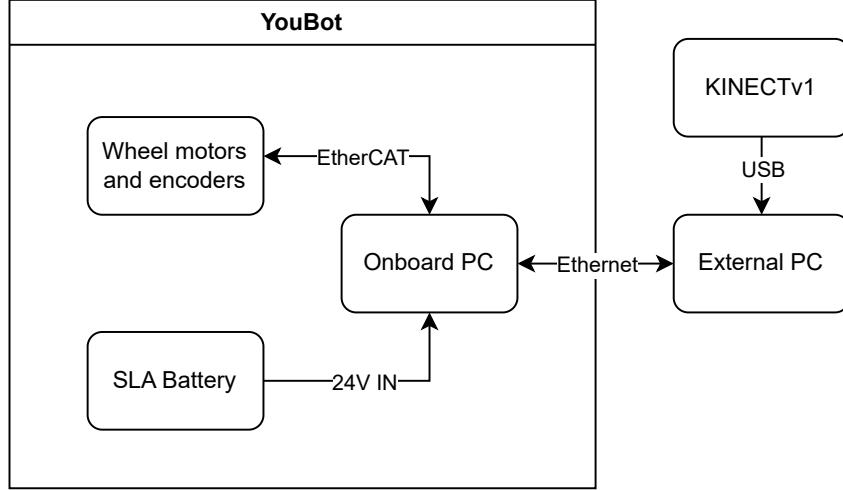


Figure 8. System Diagram

Figure 8 shows the proposed system architecture for this implementation. This would involve the onboard PC running ROS 1 Hydro, which would handle the low-level control tasks regarding motor actuation. The navigation and perception tasks would be handled by a more capable external computer running ROS 2 Jazzy. The two systems would then communicate through a ROS1-ROS2 bridge, enabling compatibility between legacy software on the YouBot and the more modern ROS2 stack. The Kinect camera would be then mounted on top of the YouBot, and would be connected to the external computer via USB. This setup allows for the YouBot to be used without much modification or strain to its legacy hardware, while still enabling the use of modern software and sensors.

However, due to several challenges—namely the age of the YouBot, limited prior experience with robotics, and software incompatibilities—this plan proved infeasible. A revised set of project goals was subsequently developed, as discussed in the following section.

## 3 Project Overview

### 3.1 Technical Goals

The technical goals for this project involve the deployment and quantification of the robot's capabilities, particularly in terms of navigation and odometry. This would involve the following goals:

- Inspecting the initial physical state of the YouBot
- Enabling the robot start up
- Enabling the running of the original demos
- Enabling the running of the ROS interface
- Enabling the ROS1-ROS2 bridge
- Enabling wireless connections to external computers using SSH and Ethernet
- Writing custom programs to control the YouBot
- Testing the movement and odometry of the YouBot
- Measuring the quality of movement and odometry by measuring their error
- Replacing the current deprecated batteries with a usable battery
- Documenting the revival process and potential future applications of the YouBot

The set of goals that have been formulated have deviated from the original goals, which were formulated based on experimenting and identifying the limitations of the robot.

### 3.2 Learning Objectives

The learning objectives for this project involve the following:

- Develop hands-on experience in restoring and operating a legacy robot platform (KUKA YouBot)
- Gain proficiency in Linux systems and environment setup for robotics development
- Learn to write and use Bash scripts to automate setup, build, and deployment workflows
- Understand the architecture of the Robot Operating System (ROS1 & ROS2), and learn to configure and launch ROS-based systems
- Learn to establish and manage secure communication with robotic systems using SSH and Ethernet
- Write and deploy custom ROS nodes for basic motion control of the YouBot platform
- Understand the principles of robot navigation and odometry, including error measurement and correction techniques
- Learn methods for documenting system restoration, experimental results, and identifying directions for future development

### 3.3 System Architecture

Our intended setup was to use the YouBot as a mobile base with the Kinect camera mounted on top of it. The onboard computer of the YouBot would only be used to control the motors and communicate with the sensors. The actual bulk of the processing would be done on a separate computer that runs ROS2 and enables the necessary navigation and perception stacks.

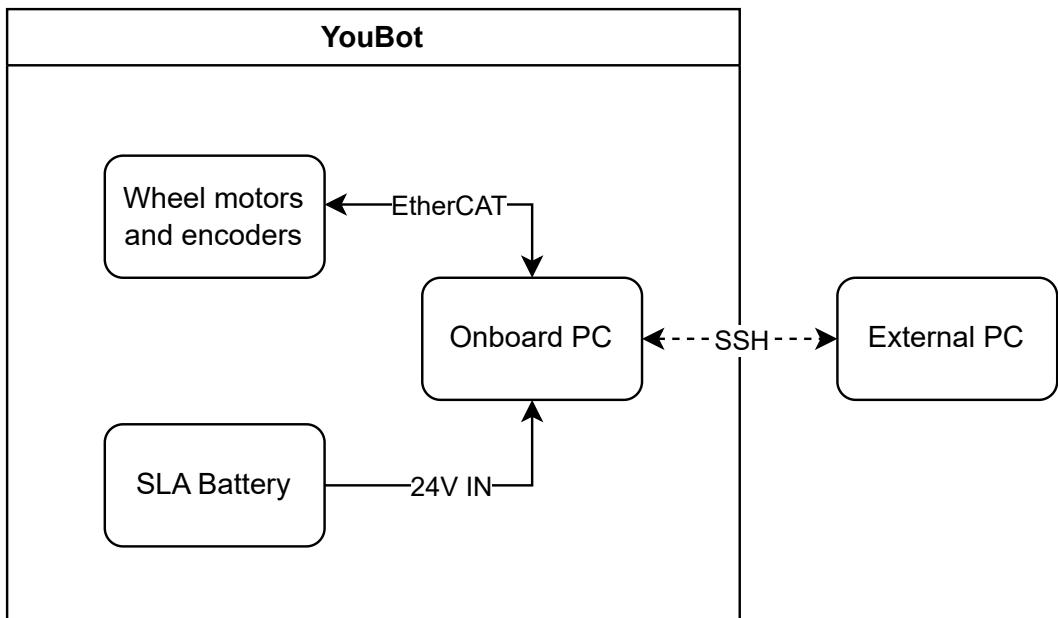


Figure 9. New System Diagram

## 4 System Development

### 4.1 Booting up the YouBot

The initial inspection was carried out as described in section 2. Since the onboard battery was completely dead, I connected the YouBot to the 24V power supply and booted it up. On long pressing the power button, the screen flashed on and I could see the voltage input for the robot, alongside options to turn the PC and motors on/off separately.

After connecting a monitor using VGA and keyboard and mouse using USB, I was able to boot up the onboard PC and use it as any other computer. The wireless adapter connected to this onboard computer was also functional, and was able to connect to the internet. This meant one could theoretically SSH into the onboard computer from a personal laptop, but I was unable to do so at that time due to a lack of a static IP address.

I was able to see the following software installed on the onboard computer: insert ROS version here and discuss the github repos that were already installed here.

The installed software includes `youbot_driver`, which provides the necessary drivers to communicate with the robot's motors and sensors. Additionally, a complete ROS stacks were installed (`youbot-ros-pkg`) to provide ROS support for the YouBot. Alternatively, interfacing can be done with the simpler `youbot_driver_ros_interface` package, which provides a minimal set of ROS nodes to control the YouBot. The latter has been used for the purposes of this project to simplify the interaction with the robot. Additionally, `youbot_description` provides the necessary URDF files to describe the robot's kinematics and dynamics, allowing for simulation and visualization in RViz and Gazebo. Finally, `youbot_applications` provides a set of example applications and demos to get started with the YouBot. There are additional open-source from the official `youbot` GitHub account that can be seen from here.

insert pictures showing failed stuff

### 4.2 Initial Configuration

The ROS interface as well as the relevant demo programs were attempted to be run. The C++ demo programs were unable to detect any devices on the `eth0` port, which was not the port the motors were using. The ROS interface was also unable to ping itself and start `roscore`. This was due to the onboard computer not being bind to the correct static IP address, which is necessary for the ROS interface to function properly.

Furthermore, the onboard computer did not have a static IP address, which meant that it could not be accessed through Ethernet. These three issues were thus configured and fixed.

#### 4.2.1 ROS Networking Configuration (`.bashrc`)

The ROS networking configuration was set up by editing the `.bashrc` file on the onboard computer. This file is used to configure the environment variables for the ROS interface, and is executed every time a new terminal is opened. The following lines were added to the `.bashrc` file:

```
export DSD_IP=localhost
```

```

# April 2025 : DSD Final Project settings
export ROS_IPV6=off
export ROS_HOSTNAME=$DSD_IP
export ROS_MASTER_URI=http://$DSD_IP:11311
export ROS_IP=$DSD_IP

export ROS_PACKAGE_PATH=$ROS_PACKAGE_PATH:/home/youbot/youbot_driver:/home/
    youbot/ros_stacks:/home/youbot/applications
export LIBGL_ALWAYS_SOFTWARE=1

source /opt/ros/hydro/setup.bash
source ~/DSD-devel/setup.bash #this will be covered later.

```

This will set the ROS networking configuration to use the local host as the IP address, and will ensure that the ROS interface can communicate with itself. The `ROS_PACKAGE_PATH` variable is also set to include the necessary directories for the YouBot drivers and applications. To test whether ROS is now able to communicate with itself, the following command was run:

```
$ roscore
```

If the command runs successfully, it means that the ROS interface is now able to communicate with itself and is ready to be used.

#### 4.2.2 Ethernet Configuration (/etc/network/interfaces)

To fix the ethernet issue, `ifconfig` was ran to check the current network interfaces and their IP addresses. The output showed that `eth0` was not configured with a static IP address, and was instead using DHCP.

This was rectified by adding a static IP address for `eth0` to the `/etc/network/interfaces` file. This file is used to configure the network interfaces on the onboard computer as needed. The file was opened and the following lines added:

```

auto eth0
iface eth0 inet static
    address 192.168.10.1 # The IP address used by the YouBot
    netmask 255.255.255.0

```

After saving the file, the network interface was restarted using the following command:

```
$ sudo /etc/init.d/networking restart
```

Initially, the following commands were used to set the static IP address:

```
$ sudo ip addr add 192.168.1.200/24 dev eth0
```

however, this would automatically delete itself inconsistently due to the Network Manager. This was thus changed to the above method, which would set the static IP address permanently. This is much more convenient long term.

One can then connect another computer to the YouBot using an Ethernet cable and set its static IP address to another address in the same subnet, such as 192.168.10.2. Test the connection by pinging the YouBot's IP address from the other computer:

```
$ ping 192.168.10.1
```

If the ping is successful, the connection is established and the YouBot can be accessed through a wired connection. One can also use SSH to connect to the YouBot from another computer using the following command:

```
$ ssh youbot@192.168.10.1
```

where `youbot` is the default username of the onboard computer. The default password is `youbot`.

#### 4.2.3 Youbot Driver Configuration ( /youbot\_driver/config/youbot-ethercat.cfg)

The YouBot driver configuration file was also edited to change the port from `eth0` to `eth1`. This was done by opening the file `~/youbot_driver/config/youbot-ethercat.cfg` and changing the line:

```
#EtherCAT port
[EtherCAT]
EthernetDevice = eth0
```

This will enable the YouBot driver to communicate with the motors and sensors through the correct port for the C++ demos. After saving the file, the YouBot driver can be started using the following command:

### 4.3 Running original demos

An attempt was made to run the original demos upon turning on the computer. These original demos are stored at `~/applications` locally (available on the YouBot's GitHub repository as `youbot_applications`). The demos are written in C++ and provide a simple interface to control the YouBot's motors and sensors. This includes a Hello World application to test the communication with the motors, as well as a keyboard control demo to enable primitive keyboard control.

After the EtherCAT interfacing issue was fixed, one can run the original demos by going to the relevant directory and running the application. Remember to turn the motors on beforehand.

```
$ cd ~/applications/hello_world_demo/bin  
$ sudo ./youBot_HelloWorldDemo
```

[add the feedback from the demo here](#)

The output should show that the YouBot is able to communicate with the motors and sensors, and that the Hello World application is running successfully, by moving in the four cardinal directions.

Additionally, the keyboard control demo can be run by going to the relevant directory and running the application. This will allow you to control the YouBot's movement using the keyboard. The following command can be used to run the keyboard control demo:

```
$ cd ~/applications/keyboard_control_demo/bin  
$ sudo ./youBot_KeyboardControlDemo
```

[add the feedback from the demo here](#)

This shows that the YouBot is able to communicate with the motors and sensors as expected. However, running the original demos is very cumbersome and cannot be extended into a more complex system. As such, we will be using the ROS interface, as discussed in the next section.

## 4.4 Running ROS Interface

After verifying that the original C++ demos functioned correctly, the focus was shifted towards using the ROS interface, which provides a more scalable and modular framework for robotics development. The ROS interface allows for the integration of higher-level capabilities such as visualization, mapping, planning, and logging.

### 4.4.1 Finding Installed Packages

Additionally, the following command was used to list installed packages:

```
$ rospack list
```

Among the key packages found were:

- `youbot_driver_ros_interface` – The core package providing ROS interfaces to the hardware.
- `youbot_teleop` – A keyboard teleoperation node.
- `youbot_common` – Shared definitions and URDF files.
- `youbot_description` – The robot model used for visualization and simulation.

### 4.4.2 Launching the ROS Interface

The ROS environment was initialized as described earlier by sourcing the appropriate setup scripts in the `.bashrc` file. Once that was configured, the interface could be launched with:

```
$ roscore  
$ roslaunch youbot_driver_ros_interface youbot_driver.launch
```

The driver was successfully able to connect to the hardware via EtherCAT and expose the motors and sensors to ROS.

### 4.4.3 Inspecting ROS Nodes and Topics

With the ROS system running, the following commands were used to inspect the active components:

```
$ rosnodes list  
$ rostopic list
```

Sample output from `rosnodes list` included:

- `/youbot_driver` – The main node managing low-level hardware.
- `/rosout` – Standard logging node.

Sample topics included:

- `/joint_states` – Published joint positions and velocities.
- `/tf` – Coordinate transforms used for kinematics and visualization.
- `/cmd_vel` – Subscribed to for base velocity commands.

#### 4.4.4 Visualization with **rqt** and **rviz**

To visually inspect the robot's state and perform debugging, both **rqt** and **rviz** were used.

- **rqt\_graph** provided a real-time view of the node and topic communication.
- **rviz** allowed visualization of the robot's URDF model, TF tree, joint states, and more.

```
$ rosrun rqt_graph rqt_graph  
$ rosrun rviz rviz
```

## 4.5 ROS1-ROS2 Bridge

One of the first tasks I decided to embark on after getting the robot up and running was to set up the ROS1-ROS2 bridge. This was the most important link within the system, as it would allow the robot to seamless access the ROS2 navigation stack and enable it to access the computational resources of a more recent computer. However, the version of ROS1 on the robot is Hydro, which is more than a decade old and predates ROS2 development, i.e. it is not compatible with a ROS1-ROS2 bridge.

There are thus a handful of options to consider: One would be to upgrade the ROS1 version of the robot to a version that supports the bridge, such as Melodic or Noetic. However, this would require a significant amount of work and may cause compatibility issues with the outdated software on the robot. Another option would be to use a different computer with a more recent version of ROS1 and use it as a middleware between the robot and the ROS2 navigation stack. This would allow for a more seamless integration of the two systems, but would require additional hardware and software setup and create an unneccesarily complex system.

## 4.6 Writing Custom Programs

Using the ROS demo packages as a reference, I was able to write my own custom programs to control the YouBot. This involved using the ROS packages and drivers on the onboard computer to send velocity commands to the motors through the `/cmd_vel` topic. While primitive, this provides a simple and intuitive way to control the robot's movement using Python scripts. This can be further extended to support autonomous navigation, sensor feedback, or integration with external systems.

### 4.6.1 Creating a Catkin Workspace

Before writing custom ROS programs, a `catkin` workspace must be created. This workspace will contain all custom packages and nodes. The following commands create a basic workspace:

write code for creating a catkin workspace here.

```
$ mkdir -p ~/DSD/catkin_ws/src  
$ cd ~/DSD/catkin_ws/  
$ catkin_make
```

After building the workspace, it must be sourced to update the ROS environment:

```
$ source devel/setup.bash
```

It is recommended to add this line to the `.bashrc` file so that it is sourced automatically in every new terminal:

```
echo "source ~/DSD/catkin_ws/devel/setup.bash" >> ~/.bashrc
```

### 4.6.2 Creating a Custom Package

Once the workspace is initialized, a new package can be created within the `src` directory:

```
$ cd ~/DSD/catkin_ws/src  
$ catkin_create_pkg youbot_control rospy std_msgs geometry_msgs  
$ cd ~/DSD/catkin_ws/  
$ catkin_make
```

This creates a new package named `youbot\_\_control` with dependencies on the necessary ROS message types.

### 4.6.3 Writing a Python Control Script

Inside the package, a Python script can be written to publish velocity commands to the robot. For example:

```
$ cd ~/DSD/catkin_ws/src/youbot_control  
$ mkdir scripts  
$ touch scripts/simple_move.py  
$ chmod +x scripts/simple_move.py
```

Sample content for `simple_move.py`:

```

#!/usr/bin/env python

import rospy
from geometry_msgs.msg import Twist

rospy.init_node('simple_move')
pub = rospy.Publisher('/cmd_vel', Twist, queue_size=10)

move_cmd = Twist()
move_cmd.linear.x = 0.1 # Move forward at 0.1 m/s
move_cmd.angular.z = 0.0

rate = rospy.Rate(10) # 10 Hz
for _ in range(50): # Publish for 5 seconds
    pub.publish(move_cmd)
    rate.sleep()

# Stop
move_cmd.linear.x = 0.0
pub.publish(move_cmd)

```

This script sends a simple forward command to the robot for 5 seconds and then stops.

To run the script:

```
$ rosrun youbot_control simple_move.py
```

#### 4.6.4 Automation with Bash Scripts and Tmux

Manually opening multiple terminals and running ROS nodes is tedious. This process can be automated using a combination of bash scripts and `tmux`.

First, install `tmux` if not already available:

```
$ sudo apt-get install tmux
```

Then, create a bash script to launch the environment in multiple panes:

```
$ touch launch_youbot.sh
$ chmod +x launch_youbot.sh
```

Sample content for `launch_youbot.sh`:

```

#!/bin/bash

tmux new-session -d -s youbot
tmux send-keys "source ~/DSD/catkin_ws/devel/setup.bash" C-m
tmux send-keys "roscore" C-m

tmux split-window -h
tmux send-keys "source ~/DSD/catkin_ws/devel/setup.bash" C-m
tmux send-keys "roslaunch youbot_driver_ros_interface youbot_driver.launch" C-m

tmux split-window -v

```

```
tmux send-keys "source ~/DSD/catkin_ws/devel/setup.bash" C-m  
tmux send-keys "rosrun youbot_control simple_move.py" C-m  
  
tmux select-pane -t 0  
tmux attach-session -t youbot
```

This script will open a new tmux session with three panes: one running `roscore`, one running the driver, and one running the custom movement script. This greatly speeds up the development workflow.

One may use tmule to simplify the scripting process further using toml files. The youbot did not allow for the installation of tmule due to no support for Python 2.7, so this was not used in this project. However, it is a useful tool to consider for future projects.

## 4.7 Sensors

### 4.7.1 Kinect Camera and libfreenect

The Kinectv1 camera is a depth and RGB camera that was originally designed and sold in tandem with the XBOX 360 to enable motion tracking and gaming. Due to its low cost, high availability and ease of use, it has indirectly become a popular choice for robotics research as well.

We can use open-source software such as libfreenect to access the data from the various sensors on the module.

[discuss the libfreenect library, how to install it, and how it could be used within ROS.](#)

### 4.7.2 Hokuyo URG-04LX Laser Rangefinder

The Hokuyo URG-04LX is a 2D laser rangefinder that is commonly used in robotics research. It is a compact and lightweight sensor that provides high-resolution distance measurements in a 240-degree field of view. The URG-04LX is capable of measuring distances up to 4 meters with an accuracy of +/- 10 mm. It communicates with the onboard computer using a serial interface, making it easy to integrate into existing systems.

[discuss installing the drivers and whatnot, and how to use it within ROS and rqt.](#)

## 4.8 Battery Replacement

draft 1, 11.05 12pm

Here are some good web pages about the Sealed Lead Acid (SLA) batteries: <https://batterymasters.co.uk/> <https://www.power-sonic.com/blog/how-to-charge-a-lead-acid-battery/> and <https://www.powerstream.co>

As previously mentioned, the YouBot came with three 24V SLA batteries. Two of these were the original batteries included with the YouBot, and one was a makeshift battery put together by Vesa in 2019. All three batteries were unusable. This section thus documents the technology behind the SLA batteries, the testing of the original batteries, replacing and testing a new battery, and future battery options.

### 4.8.1 SLA Battery Overview

Sealed lead-acid (SLA) batteries operate based on a reversible chemical reaction between lead plates, lead dioxide and sulfuric acid electrolyte. When the battery discharges, the substances react to form lead sulfate and water, releasing electrical energy. During charging, this reaction is reversed.

These batteries are quite simple, robust, inexpensive and safe to use, indicating the reason for use in this scenario. However, they require some maintenance, and should undergo full discharge and charge cycles regularly to keep them in a good state. If they are not used regularly, they can suffer from sulphation, where lead sulfate crystals gradually form on the plates of the battery. This process is irreversible and permanently impairs the battery's capabilities. Cheaper SLA batteries are more prone to this issue due to lower quality materials, and one may only expect a maximum lifespan of 3-5 years from them.

SLA batteries are furthermore sealed and contain one-way valves to prevent internal pressure buildup due to production of hydrogen and oxygen gas. Normally these gases recombine back into water, but overcharging can force gas release, leading in gradual water loss.

The recommended voltage for charging SLA batteries is 2.3 volts per cell (2V), or 13.8V for a 6-cell (12V) battery, or 27.6V for a 12-cell (24V) battery. Charging at a lower voltage (i.e. 2V per cell) will not fill up the battery completely, and increase the risk of sulphation, since the lead sulfate crystals will not be fully converted back into active materials.

### 4.8.2 Testing original batteries

To confirm the degradation of the original batteries, we decided to test them using a multimeter. The two original batteries were completely dead, and did not show any voltage when connected to the multimeter. The makeshift battery showed some voltage, but it was far too low to be usable out the gate. This battery was put together using two 12V SLA batteries, where each battery was individually connected to the 4-pin XLR connector. The YouBot internally connects them in series to create a 24V battery.

Vesa attempted to revive this battery through desulphation, where a higher-than-recommended voltage (in this case, 30V) is applied to the battery to force current through the hardened sulphate layers and dissolve them.

This seemed initially promising: the battery was accepting a charge and its voltage was increasing. However, this was only temporary, as the battery quickly lost voltage again after

charging, suggesting that the sulphation was very severe. While some surface conductivity was perhaps restored, the effective area of the electrode plates was still very small, resulting in a very low capacity. As such, the battery was not usable for our purposes.

#### 4.8.3 Replacing batteries

maybe here we can link to the specific batteries used? the dimensions would be neat as well...

We decided to remake the makeshift battery using two new 12V SLA batteries of the same dimensions. While the previous batteries were Bitelma batteries, we bought some from Leader this time. These batteries were 12V 5.4Ah batteries. We tested them using a multimeter and used a car charger to charge them overnight.

The old batteries were removed from their casing and all relevant connections and pieces to structure the battery were removed. The new batteries were then appropriately connected to the 4-pin XLR connector [maybe mention the pinout here?](#), and the structural pieces were reattached with tape. After putting the casing back on, we were able to connect the new battery to the YouBot and power it on. The YouBot detects the two batteries and shows their individual voltages, confirming that the battery works. While it's not hermetically sealed, it works well for the purposes of this project.

#### 4.8.4 Future Battery Options

While we have replaced the SLA batteries with a makeshift one at a rather inexpensive cost, these batteries will not last long and will be prone to the same issues as the original batteries.

An ideal candidate for a replacement battery technology would be lithium-iron-phosphate (LiFePO<sub>4</sub>) batteries. These batteries are more expensive, but have multiple advantages over SLA batteries. They have longer lifespans, higher energy density, lighter weight, and are less prone to degradation. However, they would also need an integrated battery management system (BMS) to ensure safe operation, and potentially some custom hardware to fit the dimensions of the YouBot's battery compartment.

## 5 Experimental Setup for Movement and Odometry

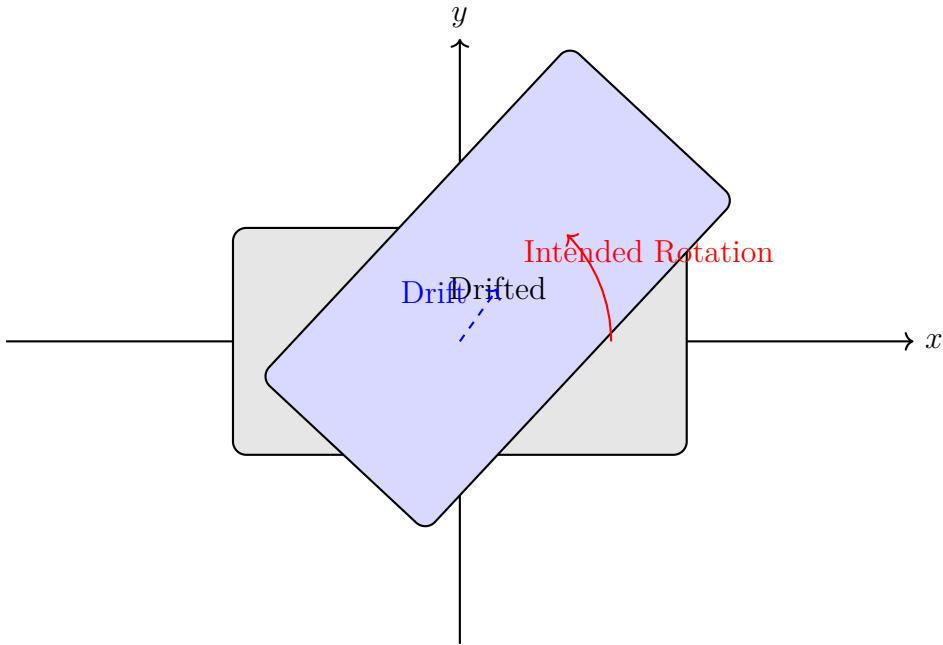
here, ill discuss the experimental setup for testing movement and odometry. this should include the two experiments of moving linearly and rotating, and discuss how error is calculated. probably discuss negative feedback and PID control as well, random, percentage, consistent error, etc.

Taking into account the various inconsistencies noticed whilst running custom programs, some experiments were set up to test the movement and odometry of the YouBot. Since this error seems to be a combination of the robot's own motor control as well as the odometry falling out of calibration, it is important to quantify this error and understand how it may be corrected.

different speeds? proportional or fixed error? does the odometry also drift?

20 times per experiment

Taking into account the various inconsistencies observed while running custom movement programs on the YouBot platform, a series of experiments were conducted to evaluate the accuracy of its movement and odometry. The goal was to quantify the types and sources of errors that arise during both linear and rotational motion, and to assess how these errors can be corrected or compensated for.



## Experimental Procedure

Two main experiments were designed: one for testing linear forward motion and the other for in-place rotation. In the linear movement test, the robot was commanded to travel forward by a set distance, while in the rotation test, the robot was commanded to rotate by a fixed angle (e.g., 90°). Each command was executed at different speed settings to observe whether error behavior varied with velocity.

Each experiment was repeated 20 times to ensure statistical significance and to detect any patterns of consistency or randomness in the errors. Measurements of the actual displacement and orientation were obtained using external references (e.g., floor markings or video tracking), and compared against the internal odometry values reported by the robot.

## Experiment Configurations

Test ID	Type	Speed (m/s or rad/s)	Target (m or deg)
L1	Linear	0.2 m/s	1.0 m
L2	Linear	0.4 m/s	1.0 m
L3	Linear	0.2 m/s	0.5 m
R1	Rotation	0.5 rad/s	90°
R2	Rotation	1.0 rad/s	90°

Table 1. Summary of movement and odometry test configurations

Each test case involved issuing a velocity command for a precise duration such that the robot would cover the target distance or angle, assuming ideal conditions. The difference between the expected and actual outcomes was used to calculate both positional and orientation errors.

## Types of Errors Observed

During the experiments, several types of errors were encountered:

- **Systematic Errors:** These occurred consistently in the same direction or magnitude, such as under-rotation by a fixed angle or consistent overshoot in distance. Causes included calibration mismatches, wheel radius misestimation, or delay in motor response.
- **Random Errors:** Small variations due to factors like sensor noise, surface friction inconsistencies, or transient slippage. These were not consistent across trials and contributed to spread in the results.
- **Proportional Errors:** Errors that scaled with speed or distance, such as increasing overshoot at higher speeds. This suggested control loop latency or imperfect motor linearity.
- **Fixed Offsets:** Some errors were fixed and independent of input command, like a consistent 2 cm drift to one side. These often pointed to physical asymmetries or encoder misalignments.
- **Odometry Drift:** Over longer trials or repeated motion without reset, odometry drift became more apparent, particularly in rotational tracking.

## Correction Strategies

To address the errors above, multiple correction strategies were explored:

- **PID Control:** Implementing a PID loop helped reduce overshoot and improve convergence during both linear and rotational motion. Negative feedback from odometry or external position estimates was used to dynamically adjust motor outputs.
- **Calibration:** Careful calibration of wheel radius, wheelbase, and encoder resolution helped reduce systematic errors.
- **Compensation Factors:** Where errors were consistent and repeatable, simple scalar correction factors were applied post hoc to odometry readings.
- **Sensor Fusion:** Although not implemented in this basic test, more advanced setups could integrate IMUs or vision-based SLAM for odometry correction and drift reduction.
- **Averaging Trials:** For random noise, statistical averaging over multiple trials helped establish a more reliable error profile.

These experiments form the foundation for understanding the motion characteristics of the YouBot and inform future work in navigation, localization, and control refinement.

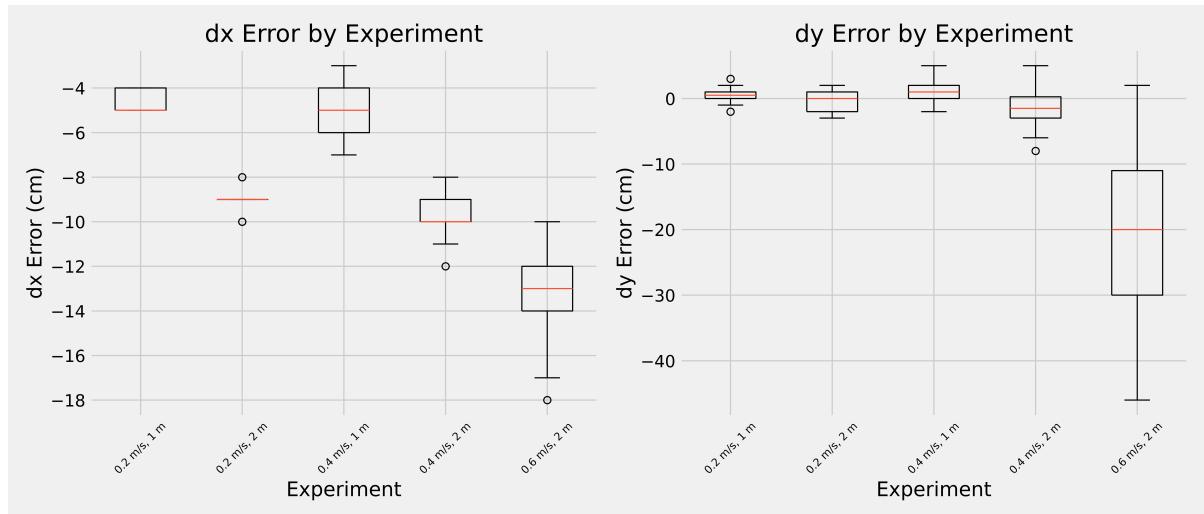


Figure 10. Centered image

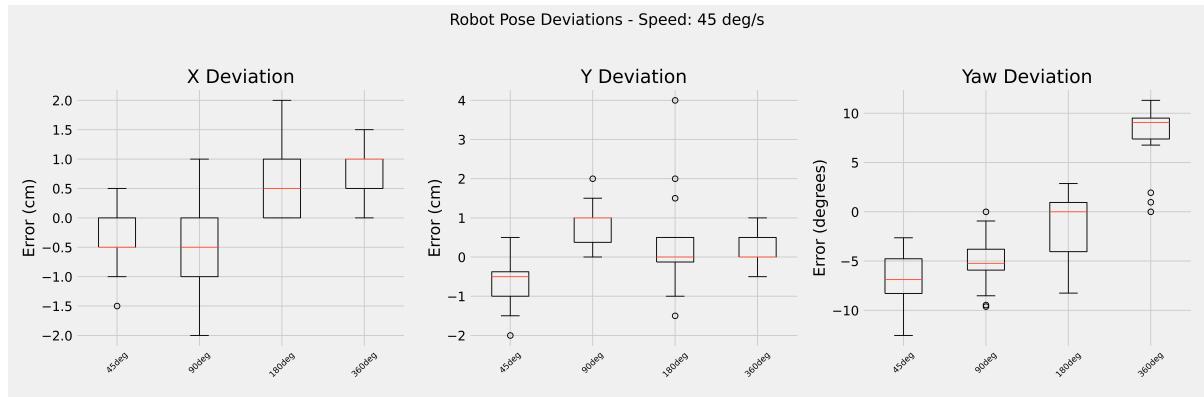


Figure 11. Centered image

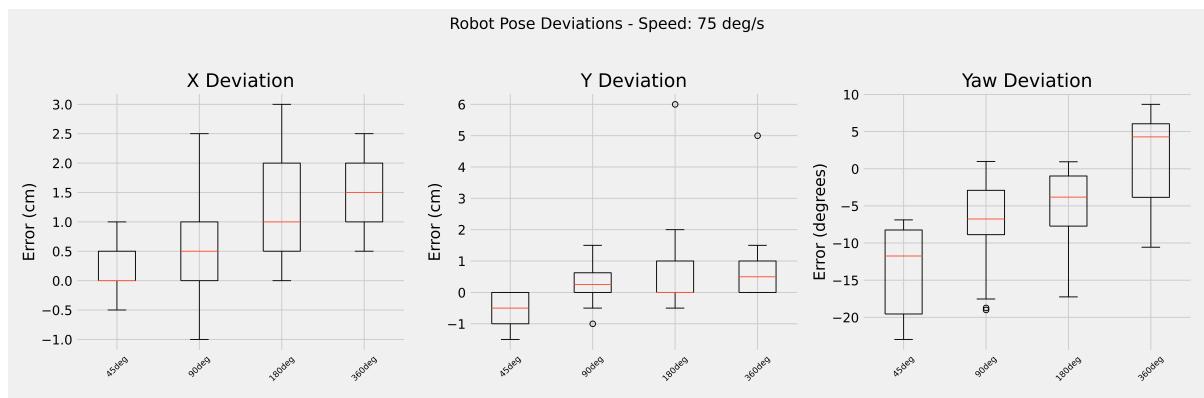


Figure 12. Centered image

## 6 Future Applications

In this section we will discuss a potential future application of the KUKA YouBot, in the context of the T&R method of navigation. The T&R method is a form of visual SLAM, where the robot can be "taught" a path through a static environment using a camera. The robot then uses this information to enable it to repeat the path movement autonomously through key frames it has saved from the environment. This method is simple yet effective in its use cases and can be used in a variety of applications, such as industrial automation, home robotics, service, etc.

t&r is not the best implementation of the youbot

platform and real world application

why im a bit skeptical about trying to implement t&r in the context of assistive platform  
trying to present as an application as a platform that can later on be used to execute  
repetitive task based on the experience of a platform with

speculative : presenting it in terms of real-world applications

flexible intra-logistics human awareness and flexibility seamless human-robot existence

While the YouBot holds the potential capabilities for undertaking Teach and Repeat, its abilities as a mobile industrial robot base would be better suited for real-world applications within closed environments as an assistive platform.

This robot base would be most useful in an assisstie sense, where it assists humans in completing rather basic and repetitive tasks, like fetching beer.

The KUKA YouBot, with its omnidirectional mobile base, offers a flexible platform for experimentation and prototyping in robotics. While the Teach and Repeat (T&R) method—where a robot is “taught” a path using visual cues and then autonomously repeats it—has proven effective in certain domains, its real-world utility as a navigation strategy for assistive platforms is nuanced and context-dependent.

### 6.1 Potential Use Cases for the YouBot Mobile Base

The YouBot’s mobile base, independent of its manipulator arm, is particularly well-suited for:

- **Flexible Intra-Logistics:** The YouBot can transport materials, components, or finished goods within factories or laboratories, adapting to dynamic layouts and avoiding obstacles thanks to its omnidirectional drive system. This makes it valuable for automating repetitive transport tasks in manufacturing, electronics, and pharmaceutical environments .
- **Assistive Service Robotics:** In assistive roles, the mobile base could help with tasks such as fetching objects (e.g., drinks, tools), delivering supplies, or guiding people in structured indoor environments. Such applications are particularly relevant in healthcare, offices, or smart homes, where repetitive, low-complexity tasks can be offloaded from humans to robots .
- **Research and Prototyping Platform:** The YouBot is widely used in academic and industrial research for developing and testing navigation, mapping, and multi-

robot coordination algorithms. Its open interfaces and modular design make it ideal for experimentation in logistics, navigation, and human-robot interaction .

- **Quality Control and Inspection:** The platform can be equipped with sensors or cameras to autonomously inspect products, monitor environments, or perform routine checks in hazardous or hard-to-reach areas .

## 6.2 Teach and Repeat (T&R) in Context

The T&R method, while simple and robust for repeated path following in static environments, has limitations when applied to assistive platforms:

- **Limited Flexibility:** T&R excels in environments where the path and surroundings are relatively unchanging. In dynamic or human-populated spaces, its lack of real-time adaptability can be a drawback compared to more advanced SLAM or AI-based navigation systems.
- **Suitability for Repetitive Tasks:** For repetitive, well-defined routes—such as material delivery within a warehouse, or routine inspection rounds—T&R can be a practical, low-compute solution. However, its application as a general-purpose assistive platform is more speculative, especially where human interaction and environmental variability are significant.
- **Platform Capabilities:** The YouBot’s mobile base is robust and maneuverable, making it a strong candidate for T&R-based applications in controlled settings. Its open architecture allows easy integration of additional sensors or navigation modules, enabling researchers to extend beyond T&R as needed.

## 6.3 Speculative and Emerging Applications

Looking forward, the YouBot mobile base could play a role in:

- **Seamless Human-Robot Coexistence:** As part of smart environments, YouBots could support flexible logistics, on-demand delivery, and collaborative tasks alongside humans, leveraging both T&R for routine paths and more advanced navigation for dynamic tasks.
- **Education and Training:** Its accessibility and open-source support make it an excellent tool for teaching robotics concepts, prototyping new algorithms, or participating in competitions such as RoboCup@Work.
- **Translational Research:** Innovations and algorithms developed on the YouBot can be scaled up to larger, industrial-grade mobile platforms, facilitating technology transfer from the lab to real-world production lines.

## 6.4 Summary Table: Potential Use Cases for the KUKA YouBot Mobile Base

## 6.5 Conclusion

While the KUKA YouBot’s mobile base is not the optimal platform for all assistive applications—especially those requiring high flexibility and human awareness—it remains

<b>Application Area</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Intra-logistics	Material transport, flexible routing in factories, labs, or warehouses	
Assistive service robotics	Fetching/delivery tasks, guidance, support in healthcare or home environments	
Research and prototyping	Testing navigation, SLAM, multi-robot systems, and human-robot interaction	
Inspection and quality control	Autonomous inspection, monitoring, and data collection in industrial or hazardous settings	
Education and training	Robotics teaching, student projects, and competitions	

Table 2. Potential Use Cases for the KUKA YouBot Mobile Base

a valuable tool for developing and demonstrating repetitive, structured tasks. Its use in T&R navigation is best suited for closed, static environments, but its modularity and open architecture allow for broader experimentation and real-world prototyping in logistics, research, and assistive robotics.

## 7 Reflection

[draft 1, 11.05 6pm](#)

In this section, I will reflect on the outcomes of this project. This will include an overview of project management practices and planning, alongside my learnings and personal feelings about the project.

### 7.1 Project Evolution

As discussed previously, the initial goal of this project was much more concrete and ambitious, with an ultimate aim of enabling Teach and Repeat on a decade-old robot whilst using something like ROS2 Jazzy. This was simply not feasible with the outdated software and hardware, lack of documentation, my own lack of experience, and the overall time and resource constraints for completing this project. Furthermore, this project was a significant different experience from any other course I have taken in the past.

My initial approach to project management was very linear and straightforward, with the understanding that there would be no hiccups or issues along the way. I had the following time-table in mind: [maybe insert a table showcasing the plan here?](#) While this was initially rewarding as I made progress in individual tasks (i.e. Kinect camera, booting up computer, static IP, etc.), momentum was quickly lost when it came to integrating these tasks into a cohesive system, through the use of the ROS1-ROS2 bridge.

### 7.2 AGILE

The new mindset I undertook was inspired by the AGILE project management methodology, which takes a much more flexible and iterative approach to project management. While the long-term goals are still important, the focus is on short-term goals and iterations. This allows for a more flexible approach, where the ending goal can be adjusted based on constraints, feedback, and progress.

While this also indirectly means that the project may not be concretely completed, it led to a more flexible exploration of the robot's capabilities and limitations. It furthermore relieved me of the pressure of having to complete a specific (and steep) goal, and gave me breathing space to play around with the available components more freely. This was much more rewarding and enjoyable.

Undertaking this mindset required time and patience, where I had to learn to accept that not everything would go according to plan. It furthermore required me to be more open to feedback, and actively focusing on short-term goals.

### 7.3 Final Thoughts

Overall, despite the various challenges faced, I am very happy with my progress and learning outcomes regarding this project. I was able to successfully revive the KUKA YouBot to a usable state, gain a deeper understanding of the ROS ecosystem, Linux, bash scripting, alongside the various hardware components of the robot. More importantly, I learned to manage projects with the understanding of personal and technical constraints. I'd like to thank my advisor for his provision of a different perspective on the project, explanations of everything and constant patience.

## References

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- [2] “YouBot Store — web.archive.org”, [Accessed 23-04-2025]. [Online]. Available: <https://web.archive.org/web/20170318163736/http://www.youbot-store.com/developers/>.
- [3] “YouBot Driver — janpaulus.github.io”, <https://janpaulus.github.io/>, [Accessed 23-04-2025].
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# A User Manual for the KUKA YouBot

## A.1 How to turn on the YouBot

## A.2 .bashrc recap

## A.3 How to run original demos

# B CSVs and code

## B.1 CSV files

### B.1.1 Linear movement, 0.2m/s, 1m

dx_meas	dy_meas	dx_odom	dy_odom	dz_odom	dyaw_odom
100	-4	96	-1	0	-0.012
103	-2	98	-2	0	-0.012
102	-1	98	-3	0	0.003
99	0	95	-1	0	-0.006
102	-2	98	0	0	-0.013
100	-1	95	0	0	-0.001
102	-1	98	0	0	0.005
103	-2	98	0	0	0.005
104	-1	99	-1	0	0.006
102	-2	97	0	0	-0.004
103	0	98	0	0	-0.010
104	-1	99	-1	0	0.003
102	-1	98	-1	0	0.004
102	0	97	0	0	0.002
100	0	96	-1	0	0.012
103	-1	98	0	0	0.007
103	-1	98	0	0	0.003
100	-1	96	0	0	0.004
100	-1	96	0	0	-0.003
103	0	98	-1	0	0.008

### B.1.2 Linear movement, 0.2m/s, 2m

dx_meas	dy_meas	dx_odom	dy_odom	dz_odom	dyaw_odom
207	2	198	-1	0	0.012
204	0	195	0	0	0.002
207	0	199	0	0	-0.014
205	-1	196	0	0	0.001
206	0	197	0	0	0.003
207	0	198	0	0	-0.006
208	-2	199	0	0	0.000
208	-2	198	0	0	0.008
208	2	199	0	0	-0.001
208	1	199	0	0	0.009
205	2	196	0	0	0.004
209	2	200	0	0	0.007
205	1	196	0	0	0.000
206	2	197	0	0	0.014
208	-1	199	0	0	0.000
209	-2	199	0	0	-0.013
207	2	198	-1	0	0.012
207	-2	198	0	0	-0.008
207	0	198	0	0	0.004
205	3	196	0	0	0.002

### B.1.3 Linear movement, 0.4m/s, 1m

dx_meas	dy_meas	dx_odom	dy_odom	dz_odom	dyaw_odom
94	3	88	2	0	0.021
99	-2	94	3	0	-0.005
101	0	95	2	0	0.002
93	1	88	2	0	0.015
100	0	94	2	0	0.019
100	1	94	3	0	0.005
100	0	97	3	0	-0.007
99	0	94	2	0	0.012
102	2	98	2	0	0.018
101	1	96	2	0	0.020
102	3	97	2	0	0.011
97	2	90	3	0	0.013
95	2	90	0	0	0.008
94	2	90	0	0	0.007
103	0	97	0	0	0.004
97	-1	92	0	0	0.002
99	-1	95	0	0	-0.003
96	0	91	0	0	-0.006
100	-1	96	0	0	0.012
101	-1	97	0	0	-0.005
94	0	90	0	0	-0.006

### B.1.4 Linear movement, 0.4m/s, 2m

dx_meas	dy_meas	dx_odom	dy_odom	dz_odom	dyaw_odom
204	3	194	-1	0	0.022
205	3	194	-2	0	-0.010
206	8	196	0	0	0.006
202	5	192	-1	0	0.012
205	-2	195	-1	0	0.012
206	3	197	2	0	0.004
199	2	190	2	0	0.012
198	3	190	2	0	0.000
200	0	190	2	0	-0.002
205	5	196	2	0	0.009
200	6	190	3	0	0.005
206	4	196	2	0	0.020
205	3	196	4	0	0.015
198	6	190	3	0	0.008
207	3	197	2	0	0.024
207	3	197	2	0	0.021
205	5	195	3	0	0.004
207	-2	198	3	0	-0.009
207	4	195	2	0	0.013
206	-1	196	4	0	0.004

### B.1.5 Linear movement, 0.6m/s, 2m

dx_meas	dy_meas	dx_odom	dy_odom	dz_odom	dyaw_odom
197	0	187	-4	0	0.003
193	1	179	-7	0	0.006
203	5	190	-10	0	0.002
200	5	188	-15	0	0.005
202	3	189	-20	0	0.003
201	0	188	-23	0	0.003
194	0	180	-25	0	0.004
192	4	178	-30	0	0.003
198	2	186	3	0	-0.001
193	-2	181	0	0	0.007
201	0	189	-3	0	-0.003
193	-2	181	-8	0	-0.002
204	2	191	-13	0	-0.007
201	0	188	-14	0	-0.002
202	1	189	-17	0	0.006
203	0	190	-18	0	-0.001
192	-1	180	-21	0	0.003
192	2	180	-24	0	-0.002
193	5	180	-29	0	0.003
195	7	180	-34	0	0.004
200	5	184	-38	0	-0.001
204	3	186	-43	0	0.006
201	1	184	-45	0	-0.002

### B.1.6 Rotational movement, 45deg/s, 45deg

dx1_meas	dy1_meas	dx2_meas	dy2_meas	dx_odom	dy_odom	dz_odom	dyaw_odom
1	-3	-2	1	0	0	0	0.683
1	-3	-2	1	0	0	0	0.667
2	-4	-2	4	0	0	0	0.596
2	-6	-5	5	0	0	0	0.554
2	-4	-3	3	0	0	0	0.648
0	-3	-1	2	0	0	0	0.711
0	-2	-2	2	0	0	0	0.726
0	-3	-2	1	0	0	0	0.708
2	-4	-3	3	0	0	0	0.633
2	-3	-2	2	0	0	0	0.656
1	-5	-3	1	0	0	0	0.665
1	-4	-2	1	0	-1	0	0.690
3	-7	-4	4	0	0	0	0.553
2	-3	-2	3	0	0	0	0.663
2	0	-1	1	0	0	0	0.714
2	-4	-2	2	0	0	0	0.674
3	-6	-2	5	0	0	0	0.559
3	-4	-3	4	0	0	0	0.549
2	-4	-2	3	0	0	0	0.665
2	-4	-2	2	0	0	0	0.666

### B.1.7 Rotational movement, 45deg/s, 90deg

dx1_meas	dy1_meas	dx2_meas	dy2_meas	dx_odom	dy_odom	dz_odom	dyaw_odom
3	0	-3	0	0	0	0	1.407
2	0	-2	0	1	0	0	1.439
0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	1.476
3	0	-4	1	0	0	0	1.411
1	0	-1	0	0	1	0	1.479
-1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	1.482
0	1	-4	1	0	0	0	1.460
0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1.487
1	1	-5	1	0	0	0	1.421
1	1	-5	1	0	0	0	1.423
3	0	-3	0	0	0	0	1.464
1	2	-3	1	0	0	0	1.475
4	1	-5	1	0	0	0	1.403
1	1	-3	1	0	0	0	1.474
3	2	-3	2	0	0	0	1.418
2	1	-3	1	0	0	0	1.458
4	1	-6	1	0	0	0	1.368
3	2	-4	1	0	0	0	1.438
6	0	-4	1	-1	0	0	1.363
2	1	-2	1	0	1	0	1.469

### B.1.8 Rotational movement, 45deg/s, 180deg

dx1_meas	dy1_meas	dx2_meas	dy2_meas	dx_odom	dy_odom	dz_odom	dyaw_odom
1	1	1	2	-1	0	0	3.042
1	1	1	-1	-1	1	0	2.994
0	1	0	2	-1	0	0	3.020
1	2	1	2	-1	1	0	3.041
0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	3.060
0	1	0	-3	-1	0	0	2.967
0	2	0	-3	0	1	0	2.949
0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3.047
1	4	3	-5	0	1	0	2.918
0	2	1	-2	0	1	0	2.996
1	-3	1	0	1	1	0	3.302
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.022
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.040
0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3.047
0	3	0	-3	1	0	0	2.980
1	3	1	-3	1	0	0	2.955
1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3.041
1	4	1	4	0	0	0	2.909
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.026
0	3	0	-3	0	0	0	2.934

### B.1.9 Rotational movement, 45deg/s, 360deg

dx1_meas	dy1_meas	dx2_meas	dy2_meas	dx_odom	dy_odom	dz_odom	dyaw_odom
2	5	1	-4	0	0	0	-0.120
1	4	1	-4	0	-1	0	-0.133
1	5	1	-5	0	-1	0	-0.092
1	6	1	-5	0	-1	0	-0.093
0	5	1	-5	0	0	0	-0.055
1	6	1	-6	0	0	0	-0.086
0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-0.213
0	5	2	-5	-1	0	0	-0.092
1	5	1	-5	-1	0	0	-0.103
0	2	1	0	1	-1	0	-0.196
1	1	2	0	-1	0	0	-0.195
0	4	1	-4	-1	0	0	-0.101
0	4	1	-3	-1	0	0	-0.133
1	5	1	-5	-1	0	0	-0.093
1	5	1	-5	-1	0	0	-0.089
1	1	1	1	-1	0	0	-0.220
1	5	1	-5	-1	0	0	-0.101
0	5	1	-6	0	-1	0	-0.044
1	4	1	-4	0	-1	0	-0.013
0	5	1	-4	0	-1	0	-0.111

### B.1.10 Rotational movement, 75deg/s, 45deg

dx1_meas	dy1_meas	dx2_meas	dy2_meas	dx_odom	dy_odom	dz_odom	dyaw_odom
3	-5	-3	3	0	0	0	0.630
6	-10	-6	10	0	0	0	0.370
4	-6	-4	5	0	0	0	0.551
7	-10	-5	8	0	0	0	0.422
5	-10	-6	10	0	0	0	0.416
5	-6	-4	6	0	0	0	0.589
7	-11	-6	9	0	0	0	0.422
4	-7	-3	4	0	0	0	0.546
3	-3	-2	3	0	0	0	0.642
5	-9	-5	8	0	0	0	0.443
3	-5	-4	4	0	0	0	0.590
6	-10	-6	9	0	0	0	0.393
3	-7	-3	5	0	0	0	0.556
3	-5	-2	3	0	0	0	0.609
3	-5	-2	2	0	0	0	0.623
2	-4	-3	3	0	0	0	0.594
3	-6	-4	3	-1	0	0	0.585
2	-3	-2	3	0	0	0	0.650
2	-3	-2	3	-1	0	0	0.623
2	-3	-2	3	-1	0	0	0.658

### B.1.11 Rotational movement, 75deg/s, 90deg

dx1_meas	dy1_meas	dx2_meas	dy2_meas	dx_odom	dy_odom	dz_odom	dyaw_odom
4	0	-6	0	0	0	0	1.346
11	2	-10	1	0	-1	0	1.205
1	0	-2	0	0	-1	0	1.437
-1	-2	0	0	0	-1	0	1.460
0	-1	0	1	0	-1	0	1.445
0	6	1	-5	0	-1	0	1.341
4	-1	-3	0	-1	-1	0	1.415
2	0	-2	0	0	-1	0	1.464
3	1	-3	1	0	0	0	1.426
4	1	-4	1	0	-1	0	1.394
10	1	-10	2	0	0	0	1.243
4	0	-2	1	-1	-1	0	1.422
3	0	0	0	0	-1	0	1.477
5	-1	-3	1	1	0	0	1.386
5	0	-4	0	0	-1	0	1.377
7	1	-8	2	1	0	0	1.287
10	-1	-8	2	0	-1	0	1.211
3	0	0	1	1	-1	0	1.463
5	0	-2	1	0	-1	0	1.432
7	-1	-2	0	0	-1	0	1.358

### B.1.12 Rotational movement, 75deg/s, 180deg

dx1_meas	dy1_meas	dx2_meas	dy2_meas	dx_odom	dy_odom	dz_odom	dyaw_odom
1	8	3	-8	1	0	0	2.769
0	1	0	-1	0	0	0	2.991
0	1	0	-1	0	0	0	2.999
1	0	1	0	1	-1	0	3.005
0	1	0	1	0	-1	0	3.001
0	1	1	1	0	-1	0	2.988
0	0	1	1	0	-1	0	3.028
1	2	1	-2	-1	0	0	2.972
1	3	1	-3	-1	0	0	2.950
3	7	3	-7	-1	0	0	2.810
2	10	3	-7	-1	0	0	2.753
1	1	1	-1	0	1	0	2.951
1	4	1	-2	0	1	0	2.959
1	1	0	0	1	1	0	2.997
3	7	0	5	1	0	0	2.825
1	7	3	-7	-1	0	0	2.794
1	2	1	-2	-1	0	0	2.967
2	2	2	2	-1	1	0	3.030
2	5	1	-3	-1	1	0	2.926
2	2	1	-3	0	1	0	2.961
3	10	1	-8	1	1	0	2.771

### B.1.13 Rotational movement, 75deg/s, 360deg

dx1_meas	dy1_meas	dx2_meas	dy2_meas	dx_odom	dy_odom	dz_odom	dyaw_odom
1	-5	2	6	1	0	0	-0.394
1	3	1	-2	1	0	0	-0.167
0	3	1	0	1	1	0	-0.203
1	3	3	7	1	0	0	-0.370
1	5	2	-2	1	-1	0	-0.136
0	5	1	-3	1	-1	0	-0.122
1	-1	1	3	1	-1	0	-0.305
1	4	2	-4	0	-1	0	0.141
1	-2	1	4	0	-1	0	-0.321
2	2	2	-2	-1	1	0	-0.191
1	2	2	0	0	-1	0	-0.213
1	2	1	-2	-1	-1	0	-0.184
2	3	3	-2	-1	-1	0	-0.184
1	-4	1	4	-1	0	0	-0.351
2	3	2	-3	-1	0	0	-0.164
2	3	3	-3	-1	0	0	-0.177
1	-4	1	4	-1	1	0	-0.358
2	4	2	-4	-1	1	0	-0.132
1	5	2	-4	-1	1	0	-0.121
1	3	2	-2	-1	1	0	-0.170

## B.2 Python Files

### B.2.1 rotate\_graph.py

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import os
from glob import glob

# === Config toggles ===
PRINT_COLUMN_DATA = True
PRINT_STATS = True
SAVE FIG = True
SHOW FIG = False

CSV_DIR = 'code/csv/' # Adjust as needed
DATA_DIR = 'code/images/'

plt.style.use('fivethirtyeight')
# plt.rcParams["font.family"] = "Times New Roman"

def compute_pose_errors_and_print(df, rotation_deg, speed):
    theta = np.radians(rotation_deg)
    expected_left = np.array([30 * np.cos(theta), 30 * np.sin(theta)])
    expected_right = np.array([-30 * np.cos(theta), -30 * np.sin(theta)])
    expected_center = (expected_left + expected_right) / 2
    expected_yaw = theta % (2 * np.pi)

    x_errors, y_errors, yaw_errors = [], [], []

    if PRINT_COLUMN_DATA:
        print(f"\nResults for {speed} deg/s, {rotation_deg} deg:")
        print(f"{'Row':<5} {'Center_X':>10} {'Center_Y':>10} {'Yaw_deg':>10} "
              f"{'dx_odom':>8} {'dy_odom':>8} {'dyaw_odom_deg':>14}")

    for idx, row in df.iterrows():
        actual_left = expected_left + np.array([row['dx1_measured'], row['
            dy1_measured']])
        actual_right = expected_right + np.array([row['dx2_measured'], row['
            dy2_measured']])
        center = (actual_left + actual_right) / 2

        vector_left_to_right = actual_left - actual_right
        yaw_rad = np.arctan2(vector_left_to_right[1], vector_left_to_right[0])
        yaw_diff = (yaw_rad - expected_yaw + np.pi) % (2 * np.pi) - np.pi

        x_err = center[0] - expected_center[0]
        y_err = center[1] - expected_center[1]

        x_errors.append(x_err)
        y_errors.append(y_err)
```

```

yaw_errors.append(yaw_diff)

if PRINT_COLUMN_DATA:
    print(f"{idx:<5} {center[0]:10.3f} {center[1]:10.3f} {np.degrees(yaw_rad):10.2f} "
          f"{row['dx_odom']:8.3f} {row['dy_odom']:8.3f} {np.degrees(row['dyaw_odom']):14.2f}")

if PRINT_STATS:
    mean_yaw_deg = np.degrees(np.mean(yaw_errors))
    var_yaw_deg = np.var(np.degrees(yaw_errors))
    print(f"\nStatistics for {speed} deg/s, {rotation_deg} deg:")
    print(f" Mean X Error: {np.mean(x_errors):.4f}, Variance: {np.var(x_errors):.4f}")
    print(f" Mean Y Error: {np.mean(y_errors):.4f}, Variance: {np.var(y_errors):.4f}")
    print(f" Mean Yaw Error (deg): {mean_yaw_deg:.4f}, Variance (deg sq): {var_yaw_deg:.4f}")

return np.array(x_errors), np.array(y_errors), np.array(yaw_errors)

def plot_rotational_errors_by_speed():
    file_list = sorted(glob(os.path.join(CSV_DIR, 'rotate_*.csv')))

    grouped_data = {}

    for file_path in file_list:
        filename = os.path.splitext(os.path.basename(file_path))[0]
        try:
            _, speed_str, deg_str = filename.split('_')
            speed = int(speed_str)
            rotation_deg = int(deg_str)
        except ValueError:
            print(f"Skipping invalid filename format: {filename}")
            continue

        df = pd.read_csv(file_path)
        x_err, y_err, yaw_err = compute_pose_errors_and_print(df, rotation_deg,
                                                              speed)

        grouped_data.setdefault(speed, []).append((rotation_deg, x_err, y_err, np.degrees(yaw_err)))

    for speed in sorted(grouped_data.keys()):
        group = sorted(grouped_data[speed], key=lambda x: x[0])

        x_err_all = [item[1] for item in group]
        y_err_all = [item[2] for item in group]
        yaw_err_all = [item[3] for item in group]
        labels = [f"{item[0]}deg" for item in group]

```

```

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 3, figsize=(18, 6))

axes[0].boxplot(x_err_all, labels=labels)
axes[0].set_title('X Deviation')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Error (cm)')
axes[0].tick_params(axis='x', rotation=45, labelsize=9)

axes[1].boxplot(y_err_all, labels=labels)
axes[1].set_title('Y Deviation')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Error (cm)')
axes[1].tick_params(axis='x', rotation=45, labelsize=9)

axes[2].boxplot(yaw_err_all, labels=labels)
axes[2].set_title('Yaw Deviation')
axes[2].set_ylabel('Error (degrees)')
axes[2].tick_params(axis='x', rotation=45, labelsize=9)

plt.suptitle(f'Robot Pose Deviations - Speed: {speed:.0f} deg/s')
plt.tight_layout(rect=[0, 0.03, 1, 0.95])

if SAVE FIG:
    if not os.path.exists(DATA_DIR):
        os.makedirs(DATA_DIR)
    filename = f'rotational_errors_speed_{int(speed):02d}.png'
    plt.savefig(os.path.join(DATA_DIR, filename), dpi=600)

if SHOW FIG:
    plt.show()
else:
    plt.close()

if __name__ == "__main__":
    plot_rotational_errors_by_speed()

```

### B.2.2 linear\_graph.py

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import os
from glob import glob

# === Config toggles ===
PRINT_COLUMN_DATA = True
PRINT_STATS = True
SAVE FIG = True
SHOW FIG = False

CSV_DIR = 'code/csv/' # Adjust as needed
DATA_DIR = 'code/images/'

plt.style.use('fivethirtyeight')
# plt.rcParams["font.family"] = "Times New Roman"

def print_column_data(label, dx_meas, dy_meas, dx_odom, dy_odom):
    print(f"\nResults for {label}:")
    print(f"{'Row':<5} {'dx_meas':>10} {'dy_meas':>10} {'dx_odom':>10} {'dy_odom':>10}")
    for i in range(len(dx_meas)):
        print(f"{i:<5} {dx_meas[i]:10.3f} {dy_meas[i]:10.3f} {dx_odom[i]:10.3f} {dy_odom[i]:10.3f}")

def print_stats(label, errors_dict):
    print(f"\nStatistics for {label}:")
    for key, errors in errors_dict.items():
        mean = np.mean(errors)
        median = np.median(errors)
        var = np.var(errors)
        print(f" {key} -> Mean: {mean:.4f}, Median: {median:.4f}, Variance: {var:.4f}")

def plot_linear_errors():
    file_list = sorted(glob(os.path.join(CSV_DIR, 'linear_*.csv')))

    dx_errors_by_exp = []
    dy_errors_by_exp = []
    labels = []

    for file_path in file_list:
        df = pd.read_csv(file_path)
        data = list(df.itertuples(index=False, name=None))

        dx_meas = np.array([t[0] for t in data])
        dy_meas = np.array([t[1] for t in data])
        dx_odom = np.array([t[2] for t in data])
```

```

dy_odom = np.array([t[3] for t in data])

error_dx = dx_odom - dx_meas
error_dy = dy_odom - dy_meas

dx_errors_by_exp.append(error_dx)
dy_errors_by_exp.append(error_dy)

filename = os.path.splitext(os.path.basename(file_path))[0]
parts = filename.split('_')
speed = float(parts[1]) / 10
distance = int(parts[2])
label = f"{speed:.1f} m/s, {distance} m"
labels.append(label)

if PRINT_COLUMN_DATA:
    print_column_data(label, dx_meas, dy_meas, dx_odom, dy_odom)

if PRINT_STATS:
    print_stats(label, {'dx_error': error_dx, 'dy_error': error_dy})

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 6))

axes[0].boxplot(dx_errors_by_exp, labels=labels)
axes[0].set_title('dx Error by Experiment')
axes[0].set_xlabel('Experiment')
axes[0].set_ylabel('dx Error (cm)')
axes[0].grid(True)
axes[0].tick_params(axis='x', rotation=45, labelsize=9)

axes[1].boxplot(dy_errors_by_exp, labels=labels)
axes[1].set_title('dy Error by Experiment')
axes[1].set_xlabel('Experiment')
axes[1].set_ylabel('dy Error (cm)')
axes[1].grid(True)
axes[1].tick_params(axis='x', rotation=45, labelsize=9)

plt.tight_layout()

if SAVE FIG:
    save_path = os.path.join(DATA_DIR, 'linear_error_boxplots.png')
    plt.savefig(save_path, dpi=600)
if SHOW FIG:
    plt.show()

if __name__ == "__main__":
    plot_linear_errors()

```

### B.2.3 linear\_test.py

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import rospy
from geometry_msgs.msg import Twist
from nav_msgs.msg import Odometry
import sys

import time, math, tf
rospy.init_node('rotate_test', anonymous=True)
def move_fwd(speed, distance):

    #Publisher to /cmd_vel
    pub = rospy.Publisher('/cmd_vel', Twist, queue_size=10)

    #Create a Twist message for movement
    move_cmd = Twist()
    move_cmd.linear.x = float(speed) # m/s

    #Calculate time needed
    move_time = float(distance) / float(speed)

    #Set a rate to publish messages

    start_time = time.time()

    while time.time() - start_time < move_time and not rospy.is_shutdown():
        pub.publish(move_cmd)

    #After specified distance, stop robot
    move_cmd.linear.x = 0
    pub.publish(move_cmd)

    rospy.loginfo("Moved forward " + str(int(100 * distance)) + " cm.")
    rospy.loginfo("%.2f", move_time)

def get_yaw_from_quaternion(ori_q):
    qu = (
        ori_q.x,
        ori_q.y,
        ori_q.z,
        ori_q.w
    )
    _, _, yaw = tf.transformations.euler_from_quaternion(qu)
    return yaw

def odom_get():
    try:
        rospy.sleep(0.2)
```

```

odom_msg = rospy.wait_for_message('/odom', Odometry, timeout=5)
position = odom_msg.pose.pose.position
orientation = odom_msg.pose.pose.orientation
yaw = get_yaw_from_quaternion(orientation)

    return (position.x, position.y, position.z, yaw)
except rospy.ROSException:
    rospy.logwarn("Timeout while waiting for odom msg.")

def odom_delta_print(start, end):
    dx = end[0] - start[0]
    dy = end[1] - start[1]
    dz = end[2] - start[2]
    dyaw = end[3] - start[3]

    dyaw = (dyaw + math.pi) % (2 * math.pi) - math.pi
    rospy.loginfo('Odometry Change:')
    rospy.loginfo(' dx = %.3f m:', dx)
    rospy.loginfo(' dy = %.3f m:', dy)
    rospy.loginfo(' dz = %.3f m:', dz)
    rospy.loginfo(' dyaw = %.3f rad (%.1f deg):', dyaw, math.degrees(dyaw))

if __name__ == '__main__':
    try:
        start = odom_get()
        if start is None:
            rospy.loginfo("Failed to get initial position.")
        move_fwd(float(sys.argv[1]), float(sys.argv[2]))
        end = odom_get()
        if end is None:
            rospy.loginfo("Failed to get final position.")

        odom_delta_print(start, end)
    except rospy.ROSInterruptException:
        pass

```

#### B.2.4 rotate\_test.py

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import rospy
from geometry_msgs.msg import Twist
from nav_msgs.msg import Odometry
import sys

import time, math, tf
rospy.init_node('rotate_test', anonymous=True)

def turn_left(speed, distance):
    # speed and distance are in degrees here.

    #Publisher to /cmd_vel
    pub = rospy.Publisher('/cmd_vel', Twist, queue_size=10)

    #Create a Twist message for movement
    move_cmd = Twist()
    move_cmd.angular.z = float(speed) * math.pi / 180# rad/s

    #Set distance and calculate time needed
    move_time = float(distance) / float(speed)

    #Set a rate to publish messages

    start_time = time.time()

    while time.time() - start_time < move_time and not rospy.is_shutdown():
        pub.publish(move_cmd)

    #After specific distance, stop robot
    move_cmd.angular.z = 0
    pub.publish(move_cmd)

    rospy.loginfo("Turned %.2f degrees.", distance)

def get_yaw_from_quaternion(ori_q):
    qu = (
        ori_q.x,
        ori_q.y,
        ori_q.z,
        ori_q.w
    )
    _, _, yaw = tf.transformations.euler_from_quaternion(qu)
    return yaw

def odom_get():
    try:
        rospy.sleep(2.0)
```

```

odom_msg = rospy.wait_for_message('/odom', Odometry, timeout=5)
position = odom_msg.pose.pose.position
orientation = odom_msg.pose.pose.orientation
yaw = get_yaw_from_quaternion(orientation)

    return (position.x, position.y, position.z, yaw)
except rospy.ROSException:
    rospy.logwarn("Timeout while waiting for odom msg.")

def odom_delta_print(start, end):
    dx = end[0] - start[0]
    dy = end[1] - start[1]
    dz = end[2] - start[2]
    dyaw = end[3] - start[3]

    dyaw = (dyaw + math.pi) % (2 * math.pi) - math.pi
    rospy.loginfo('Odometry Change:')
    rospy.loginfo(' dx = %.3f m:', dx)
    rospy.loginfo(' dy = %.3f m:', dy)
    rospy.loginfo(' dz = %.3f m:', dz)
    rospy.loginfo(' dyaw = %.3f rad (%.1f deg):', dyaw, math.degrees(dyaw))

if __name__ == '__main__':
    try:
        start = odom_get()
        if start is None:
            rospy.loginfo("Failed to get initial position.")
        turn_left(float(sys.argv[1]), float(sys.argv[2]))
        end = odom_get()
        if end is None:
            rospy.loginfo("Failed to get final position.")

        odom_delta_print(start, end)
    except rospy.ROSInterruptException:
        pass

```

### B.2.5 simple\_square\_movement.py

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import rospy
from geometry_msgs.msg import Twist

import time, math
rospy.init_node('simple_square_movement', anonymous=True)
def move_fwd():

    #Publisher to /cmd_vel
    pub = rospy.Publisher('/cmd_vel', Twist, queue_size=10)

    #Create a Twist message for movement
    move_cmd = Twist()
    move_cmd.linear.x = 0.2 # Move at 0.1 m/s

    #Set distance and calculate time needed
    distance = 1
    speed = move_cmd.linear.x
    move_time = distance / speed

    #Set a rate to publish messages

    start_time = time.time()

    while time.time() - start_time < move_time and not rospy.is_shutdown():
        pub.publish(move_cmd)

    #After 10 cm, stop robot
    move_cmd.linear.x = 0
    pub.publish(move_cmd)

    rospy.loginfo("Moved forward 10cm.")
    rospy.sleep(2)

def turn_right():

    #Publisher to /cmd_vel
    pub = rospy.Publisher('/cmd_vel', Twist, queue_size=10)

    #Create a Twist message for movement
    move_cmd = Twist()
    move_cmd.angular.z = -math.pi/5 # Move at 0.1 m/s
    rospy.loginfo(math.pi)

    #Set distance and calculate time needed
```

```

distance = math.pi*89 / 180
speed = move_cmd.angular.z
move_time = -distance / speed

#Set a rate to publish messages

start_time = time.time()

while time.time() - start_time < move_time and not rospy.is_shutdown():
    pub.publish(move_cmd)

#After 10 cm, stop robot
move_cmd.angular.z = 0
pub.publish(move_cmd)

rospy.loginfo("Turned 90 degrees clockwise.")
rospy.sleep(2)

if __name__ == '__main__':
    try:
        move_fwd()
        turn_right()
        move_fwd()
        turn_right()
        move_fwd()
        turn_right()
        move_fwd()
        turn_right()
    except rospy.ROSInterruptException:
        pass

```

### B.2.6 Tmux automation script

```
#!/bin/bash

# Create a new tmux session named 'quadrants', in detached mode
tmux new-session -d -s quadrants

# Split the window into two vertical panes (left and right)
tmux split-window -h

# Split the left pane into two horizontal panes (top-left and bottom-left)
tmux split-window -v -t quadrants:0.0

# Split the right pane into two horizontal panes (top-right and bottom-right)
tmux split-window -v -t quadrants:0.1

# Start youbot-ROS interface in the top-left pane (quadrants:0.0)
tmux send-keys -t quadrants:0.0 "sudo bash -c 'source /opt/ros/hydro/setup.bash &&
    roslaunch youbot_driver_ros_interface youbot_driver.launch'
" C-m

# Start the keyboard control interface in the bottom-left pane (quadrants:0.2)
tmux send-keys -t quadrants:0.2 "rosrun youbot_control keyboard.py" C-m

# Send 'echo 3' to the top-right pane (quadrants:0.1)
tmux send-keys -t quadrants:0.1 "echo 3" C-m

# Send 'echo 4' to the bottom-right pane (quadrants:0.3)
tmux send-keys -t quadrants:0.3 "echo 4" C-m

# Attach to the tmux session so you can see the result
tmux attach-session -t
```