

# ROSPIV: A Robot Operating System (ROS) network for performing Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV) in rivers

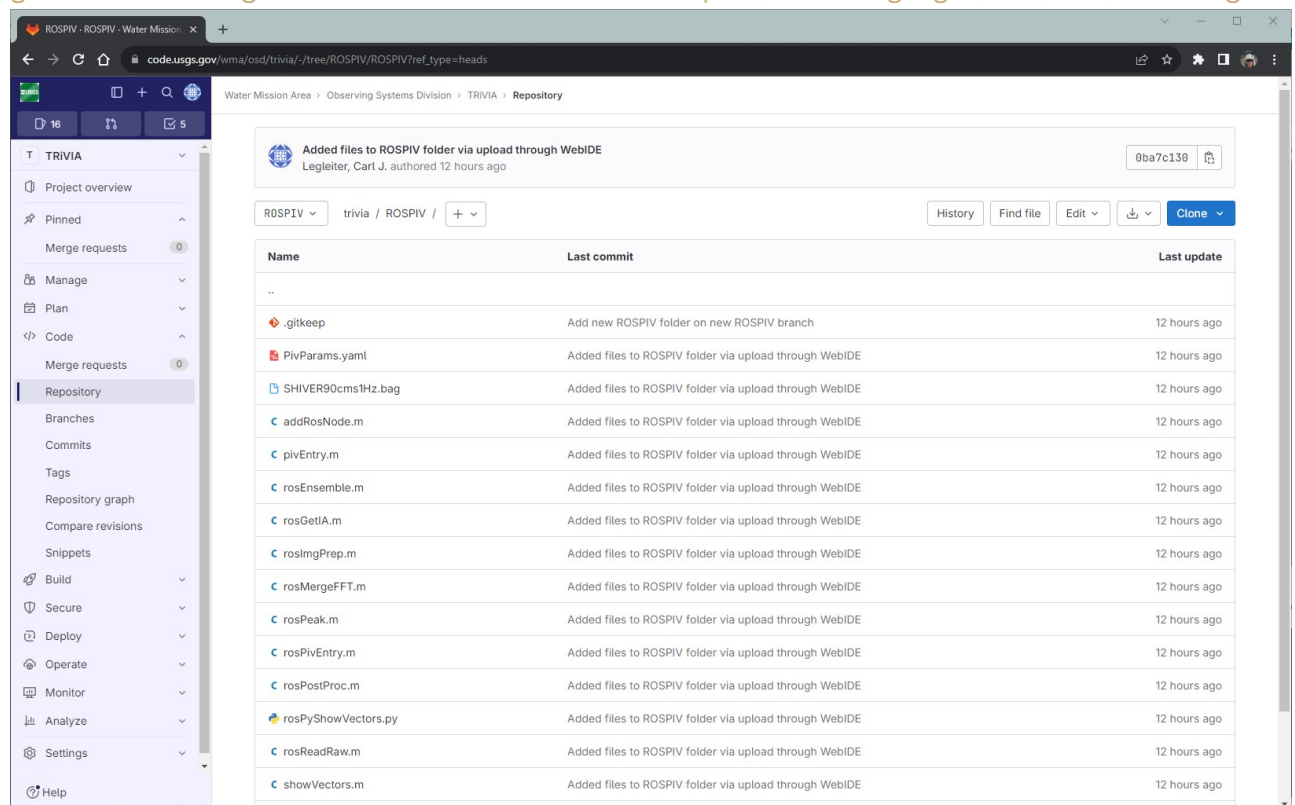
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September 12, 2023

## 0. Preliminaries

1. The ROSPIV codebase is available from the USGS GitLab repository for the Toolbox for River Velocimetry using Images from Aircraft (TRIVIA) under a distinct branch named **ROSPIV**. To clone this branch of the repository, use the following command:

```
git clone --single-branch --branch ROSPIV https://code.usgs.gov/wma/osd/TRiVIA.git
```



2. For guidance on setting up a ROS development environment on a Windows desktop computer, see the separate document [ROS4windows.pdf](#) provided as an additional supplement to this article.

## 1. Obtaining ROS \*.bag files for testing

1. To see how to make a ROS \*.bag file from a sequence of images stored in a MATLAB structure array, please refer to the first cell of code in [demoScript.m](#), which makes use of the function [stack2bag.m](#). This example is based on a simulated image sequence generated using the Simulating Hydraulics and Images for Velocimetry and Refinement (SHIVER) framework described in Legleiter and Kinzel (in review). The file resulting from this process is named [SHIVER90cms1Hz.bag](#) and is available in the **ROSPIV** folder on the **ROSPIV** branch of the **TRIVIA** repository.

- For a sample **\*.bag** file with real data from a reach of the Sacramento River in northern California, USA, please refer to the data release hosted on the USGS ScienceBase catalog:

Legleiter, C.J., 2023, Remotely sensed data from a reach of the Sacramento River near Glenn, California, used to perform Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV) within the Robot Operating System (ROS): U.S. Geological Survey data release, <https://doi.org/10.5066/P96BQQQ6>.

The screenshot shows the USGS ScienceBase catalog page for the data release. The page includes the following sections:

- Header:** USGS ScienceBase-Catalog, Communities, Add Item, My Items, More, Help.
- Title:** Remotely sensed data from a reach of the Sacramento River near Glenn, California, used to perform Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV) within the Robot Operating System (ROS).
- Dates:** Acquisition: 2020-09-16.
- Citation:** Legleiter, C.J., 2023, Remotely sensed data from a reach of the Sacramento River near Glenn, California, used to perform Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV) within the Robot Operating System (ROS): U.S. Geological Survey data release, <https://doi.org/10.5066/P96BQQQ6>.
- Summary:** This data release provides an example data set to accompany the manuscript titled "A Robot Operating System (ROS) package for mapping flow fields in rivers via Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV)", submitted to the journal Software X. A ROS \*.bag file containing remotely sensed data acquired by multiple instruments during an Uncrewed Aircraft System (UAS) flight along a reach of the Sacramento River near Glenn, California, USA, is included below. The metadata file also linked below provides more detailed information on the specific topics (i.e., data types) within the \*.bag file, but, in brief, the data included videos acquired by visible and thermal cameras and measurements of distance to the ground or water surface made by a laser range finder. The code developed to perform PIV of these data is available via a USGS GitLab repository: [https://code.usgs.gov/wma/rosvd/trivia/-/tree/ROSPIV?ref\\_type=heads](https://code.usgs.gov/wma/rosvd/trivia/-/tree/ROSPIV?ref_type=heads).
- Contacts:**
  - Author: Carl J. Legleiter
  - Distributor: USGS ScienceBase Team
  - Publisher: U.S. Geological Survey
- Attached Files:** (button)
- Map:** A map showing the location of the data reach on the Sacramento River near Glenn, California.
- Spatial Services:** ScienceBase WMS: <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog>.
- Associated Items:** Associate an item.
- Tags:**
  - Categories: Data Release - In Progress
  - Place: California, Glenn, Sacramento River
  - Theme: Particle Image Velocimetry (PIV), Remote sensing, River, Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS).

## 2. Create a parameter file for the simulated image sequence

- Follow the instructions in the second cell of code in **demoScript.m** to create a parameter file for the simulated image sequence named **PivParams.yaml** using the function **pivEntry.m**.
- The documentation for **pivEntry.m** provides more detail on the parameters. To view this information, type **doc pivEntry** at the MATLAB command prompt.

## 3. Building the network of ROS nodes for PIV from MATLAB source code

- The function **addRosNode.m** was designed to facilitate the process of building a ROS node from MATLAB source code and placing the new node within a ROS package.
- The third cell of **demoScript.m** provides an example for the first of the eight nodes that will need to be built. Note that although this function can also be used to test the ROS network by providing interactive guidance on how to play a **\*.bag** file and run all the nodes in turn, at this stage we will only use it to build the nodes one at a time.
- Leave the **testFlag** input argument set to **true** but rather than running through a complete test, just follow the instructions that appear in the MATLAB command window to build the first node, which is named **rosPivEntry**.

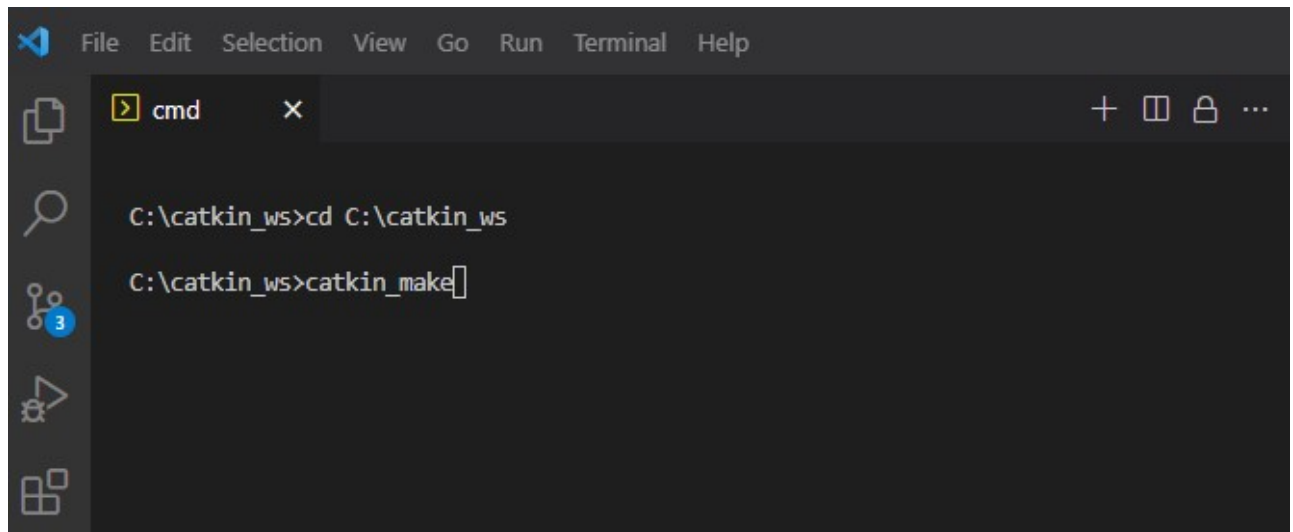
## Command Window

```

Enter the following command in a new ROS terminal window:
  cd C:\catkin_ws
  catkin_make
fx Once you have built the node, press enter to continue ...

```

4. To do so, you will need to open a ROS terminal window using either the Windows Terminal program as described in the [ROS4windows.pdf](#) document or within an integrated development environment (IDE) such as Visual Studio Code (VS Code), as shown here:



5. After completing this step in a ROS terminal, switch back to MATLAB and press **Ctrl+C** to abort the process and return to the MATLAB command prompt. You will then need to return to the directory containing the MATLAB source code: `cd(matFuncDir)`.
6. To assemble the entire ROS network for PIV, you will need to run `addRosNode.m` for a series of eight nodes:

1. `rosPivEntry`
2. `rosRedRaw`
3. `rosImgPrep`
4. `rosGetIA`
5. `rosMergeFFT`
6. `rosEnsemble`
7. `rosPeak`
8. `rosPostProc`

## 4. Use the ROS network to perform PIV for simulated image sequence

1. After building all eight ROS nodes, you can do a full PIV run for the simulated image sequence now stored in the file `SHIVER90cms1Hz.bag`. To do so, you will need to open a total of eight separate ROS terminals: one for the ROS core, one to play the bag file, and one for each of seven of the eight ROS nodes. VS Code is conducive to this type of workflow because you can arrange multiple tiles within the IDE.

2. First, copy the file `PivParams.yaml` produced by `pivEntry.m` from the directory with the MATLAB source code to the appropriate location in the catkin workspace: `C:\catkin_ws\src\streamflowpiv`.
3. You can then load these parameters to the ROS server and confirm their values by issuing these commands in a ROS terminal:

```
cd C:\catkin_ws
devel\setup.bat
roslaunch streamflowpiv streamflowpiv.launch
rosparam get /
```

Note that the `roslaunch` command also starts a ROS master (i.e., equivalent to running `roscore`), so you will need to leave this terminal open, at least in the background.

4. In a second ROS terminal, start playing the bag file using the following command, but then immediately press the space bar to pause playback until all the other nodes are ready to go.

```
rosbag play C:\directory\with\bag\SHIVER90cms1Hz.bag
```

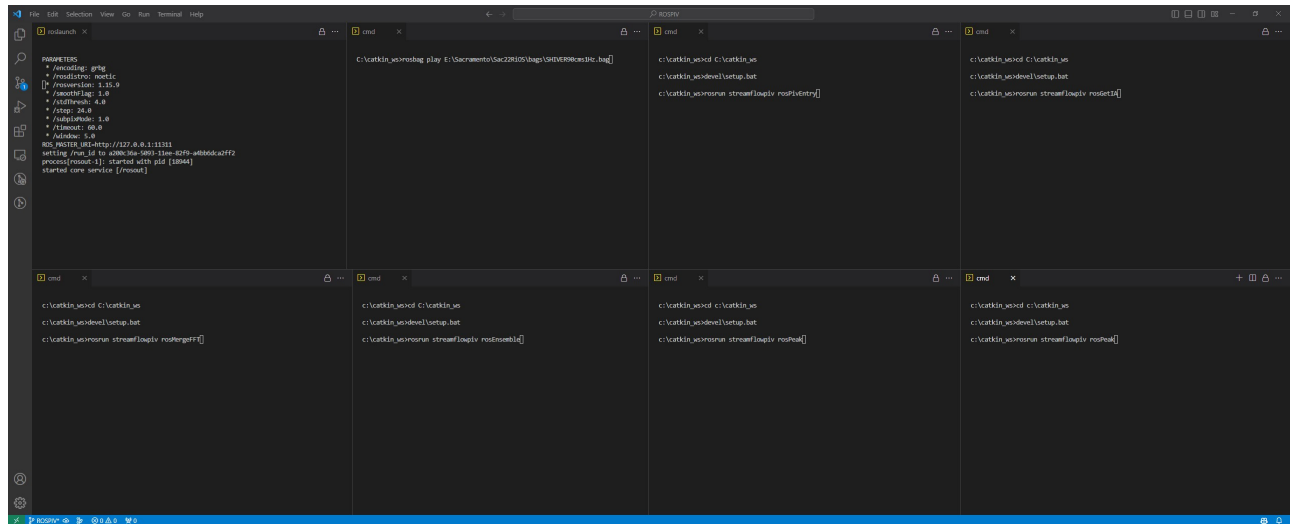
5. For each of the six remaining ROS terminals that will be used to actually run the nodes, first enter two setup commands:

```
cd C:\catkin_ws
devel\setup.bat
```

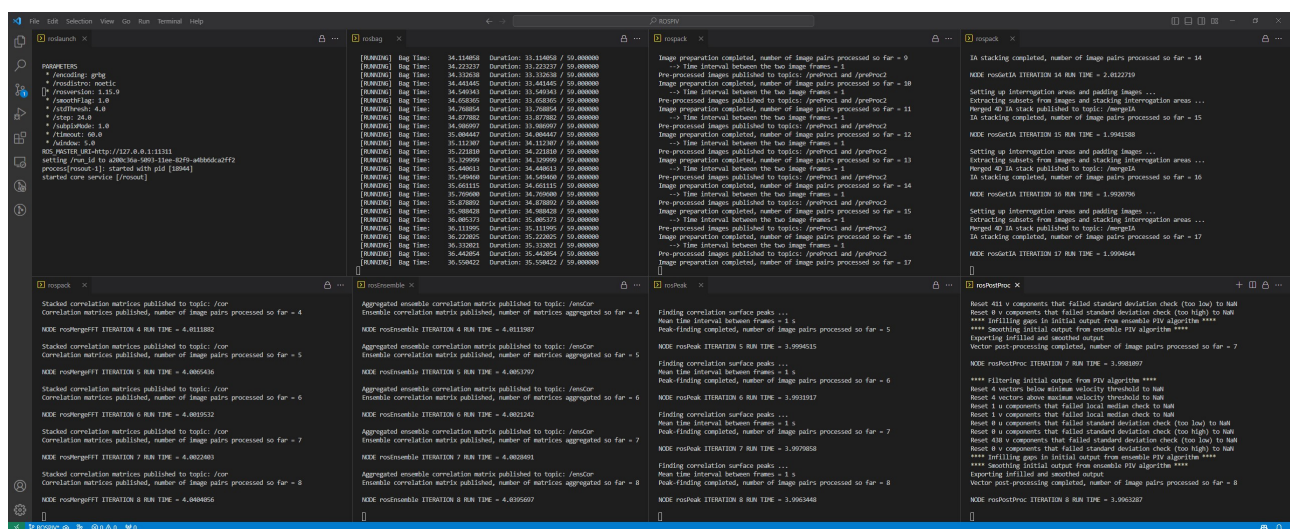
6. When you are ready to proceed, go back to the terminal that will be used to play the ROS bag and press the space bar again to start the playback.
7. Then, go to each of the other terminals in turn and issue a command like:

```
roslaunch [packageName] [nodeName]
```

In this case, the variable `[packageName]` is `streamflowpiv` and the variable `[nodeName]` will take on each of the six node names in turn: `rosPivEntry`, `rosGetIA`, `rosMergeFFT`, `rosEnsemble`, `rosPeak`, and `rosPostProc`. Note that once you start the bag playing you will have to quickly launch the other nodes in turn, otherwise the bag could finish playing before the nodes are ready to receive the messages. If this happens, you will need to restart the bag playing and then quickly launch the nodes. To get a head start, set up the ROS terminals in advance as shown below so that all you have to do is click in each terminal to make it the active window and then press enter to run the node. As each node runs, status information will be displayed in the terminal.



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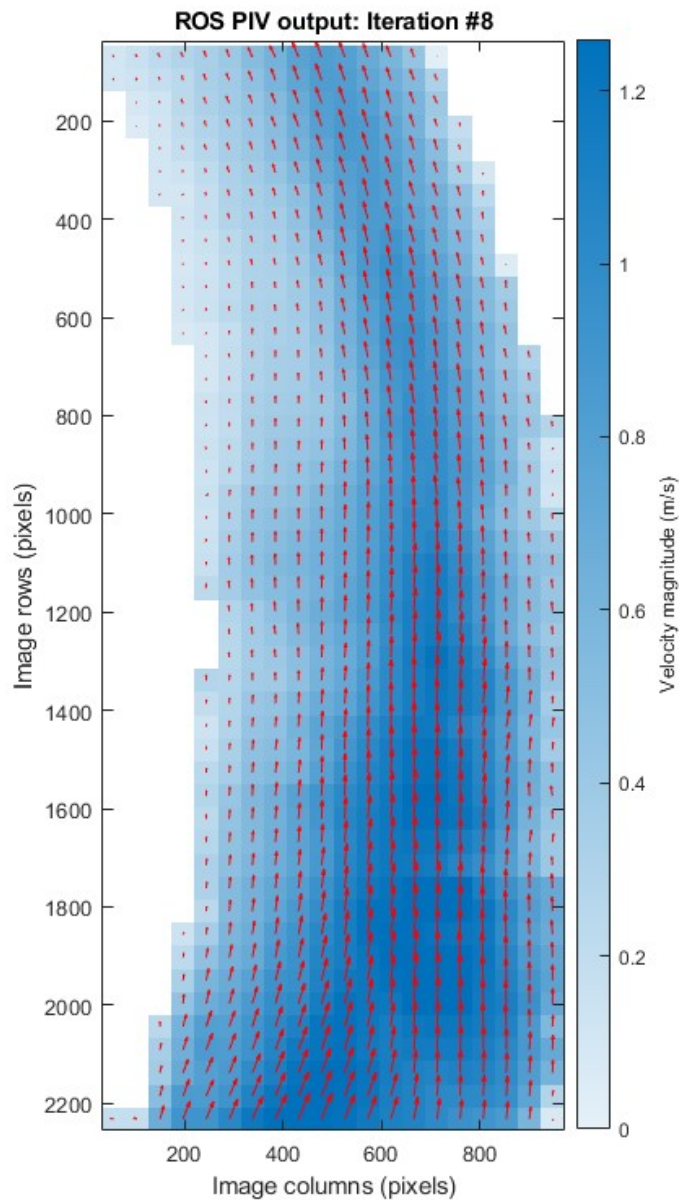
- To view the output in MATLAB, first enter the following at the MATLAB command prompt, with the last one just to confirm communication with the ROS master:

```
setenv('ROS_HOSTNAME','localhost');
setenv('ROS_MASTER_URI','http://localhost:11311');
setenv('ROS_IP','127.0.0.1');
rosinit
rostopic list
```

- Then, specify the name of the ROS topic to which the PIV output is being published and run the helper function `showVectors.m` to read in the PIV-derived velocity field, plot the output as shown below, and save the results to a set of four variables in your MATLAB workspace:

```
pivTopic = '/pivFilt'; % for filtered output after running rosPostProc
[xGrid,yGrid,uGrid,vGrid] = showVectors(pivTopic);
```





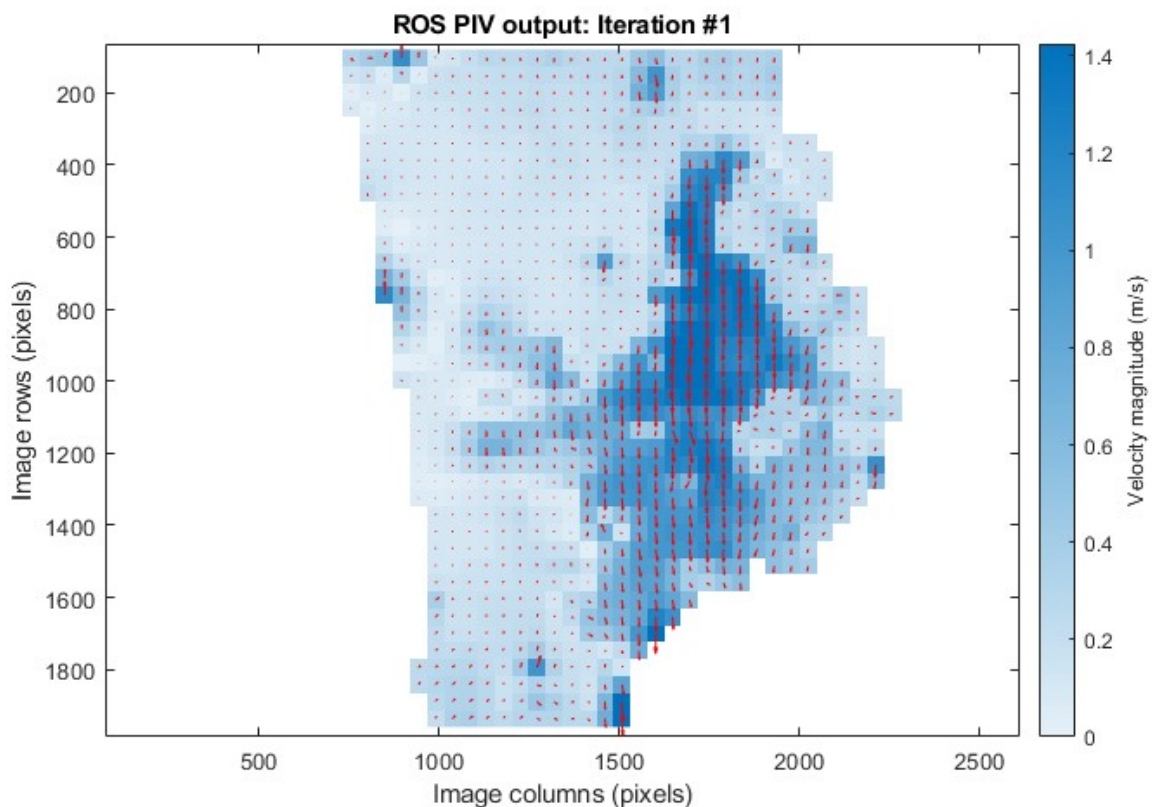
## 5. ROS-based PIV for a recorded bag file from the Sacramento River

1. To perform a second PIV run for a different input data set based on real images from the Sacramento River, we will need to update the parameter file `PivParams.yaml` to reflect the new input data. To do so, follow the instructions in cell #5 of `demoScript.m` to create a new parameter file for the Sacramento River image sequence using the function `pivEntry.m`.
2. Before proceeding, kill the current ROS master by pressing `Ctrl+C` in the ROS terminal window where the ROS master is currently running.
3. You will then need to copy the resulting `PivParams.yaml` file to `C:\catkin_ws\src\streamflowpiv` and then load these parameters into the ROS server by issuing these commands in the ROS terminal that will be used to run the ROS master:

```
cd C:\catkin_ws
devel\setup.bat
roslaunch streamflowpiv streamflowpiv.launch
rosparam get /
```

You should see the new values of each parameter displayed in the terminal window.

4. In this case, performing a PIV run will require two additional steps that were not necessary when working with simulated images that were "PIV ready." Rather than the `rosPivEntry` node we used for the image sequence derived from SHIVER, you will need to use the `rosReadRaw` node to read in the raw images from the bag file and then the `rosImgPrep` node to mask, stabilize, and enhance the images to prepare them for PIV. To accommodate the extra node, you will now need a total of nine separate ROS terminals: one for the ROS core, one to play the bag file, and one for each of eight ROS nodes.
5. Please refer to the instructions in Section #4 above for how to set up the ROS terminals and then run each node in turn. Now, the sequence of nodes to be run becomes: `rosReadRaw`, `rosImgPrep`, `rosGetIA`, `rosMergeFFT`, `rosEnsemble`, `rosPeak`, and `rosPostProc`.
6. Steps 6-9 from Section #4 also pertain here and provide guidance on how to perform the PIV run and view the output in MATLAB.



## 6. Using the ROS PIV network with a Linux-type operating system

1. Although the preceding sections described how to set up and use the ROS PIV network on a Windows desktop computer, the same network can also be used on a Linux-type operating system. The following instructions are based on a Linux virtual machine (VM) running Ubuntu 20.04.3 LTS on a Windows 10 host computer, but the same steps should also work on a dedicated Linux computer.
2. However, because the Linux (virtual) machine might not have MATLAB, an additional, platform-independent plotting utility is provided in the form of a Python script named `rosPyShowVectors.py`. This script can be run from a Linux terminal and will read in the PIV output from a ROS topic and then plot the results. To make use of this plotting routine ...

1. Copy the `rosPyShowVectors.py` file to a new folder `C:\catkin_ws\src\streamflowpiv\scripts\` on the Windows machine.
2. Open a git bash (i.e., Linux-like) terminal and use these commands to make the script executable:

```
cd /c/catkin_ws/src/streamflowpiv/scripts
chmod +x rosPyShowVectors.py
```

3. Open the file `C:\catkin_ws\src\streamflowpiv\CMakeLists.txt` and add the following at the end:

```
# TACK THIS ON TO MAKE USE OF A PYTHON SCRIPT:
catkin_install_python(PROGRAMS scripts/rosPyShowVectors.py
DESTINATION ${CATKIN_PACKAGE_BIN_DESTINATION})
```

3. The `addRosNode.m` function described above in Section #3, along with the `catkin_make` command issued in a ROS terminal, serve to generate C++ code from the MATLAB source code and then build the nodes in the catkin workspace for the ROS package, named `streamflowpiv` in this case. Once all the nodes have been built in this manner, the entire catkin workspace can be copied to a Linux (virtual) machine with the same ROS installation and then built using `catkin_make`. More specifically, ...

1. Copy the contents of the `C:\catkin_ws\src` directory on the Windows machine to the `~/catkin_ws/src` directory on the Linux (virtual) machine.
2. In a Linux terminal, issue the following commands to build all the nodes at once:

```
cd ~/catkin_ws
catkin_make
source devel/setup.bash
```

4. To then perform a ROS-based PIV run on the Linux (virtual) machine ...

1. First start a ROS master and load the appropriate version of the `PivParams.yaml` file using these commands:



```
cd ~/catkin_ws/src/streamflowpiv/
roscpp load PivParams.yaml
roscpp get /
```

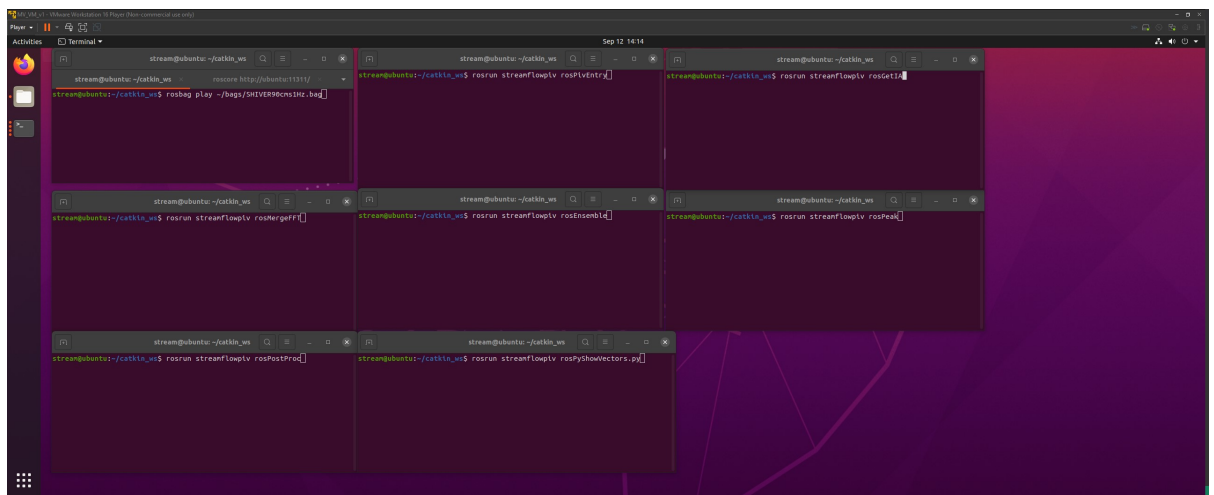
- Next, play one of the bag files, either the one with simulated images produced via SHIVER or real data from the Sacramento River, using one of these commands:

```
roscpp play ~/bags/bag6xs600.bag
roscpp play ~/bags/SHIVER90cms1Hz.bag
```

- Open up a series of additional terminals (seven for the simulated image sequence or eight for the real bag file from the Sacramento River) and in each one issue these commands

```
cd ~/catkin_ws
source devel/setup.bash
roscpp run streamflowpiv [nodeName]
```

Here, the variable where the `[nodeName]` variable takes on the following values: `rosPivEntry` for SHIVER output or `rosReadRaw` followed by `rosImgPrep` for the recorded bag file, then `rosGetIA`, `rosMergeFFT`, `rosEnsemble`, `rosPeak`, `rosPostProc`, and `rosPyShowVectors.py`.



An example of the output from this process, based on the simulated image sequence, is shown below. Press `Ctrl+C` in the terminal used for the Python plotting routine to kill the process and return to the Linux command prompt once the run has completed and no more output is being

produced by the ROS PIV network.

