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Introduction to Mobile Robotics course, Seminar 3

Services, Actions, Parameter server and roslaunch

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Outline

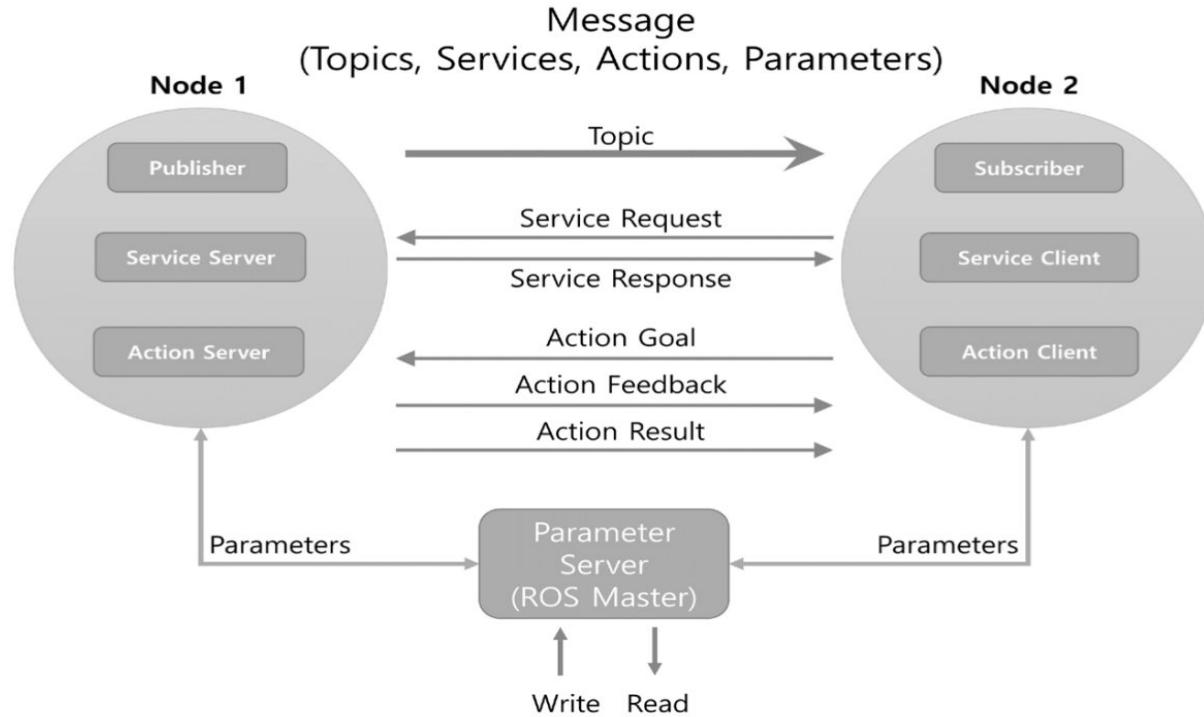
- 
- 1. Services
 - 2. Actions
 - 3. Parameter server
 - 4. roslaunch

Services

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01

ROS communication types

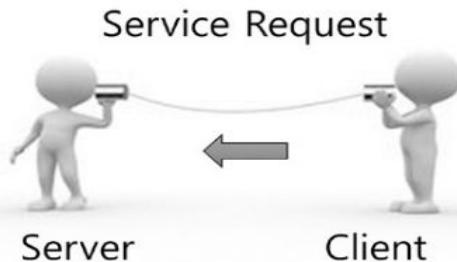


TYPES OF COMMUNICATION

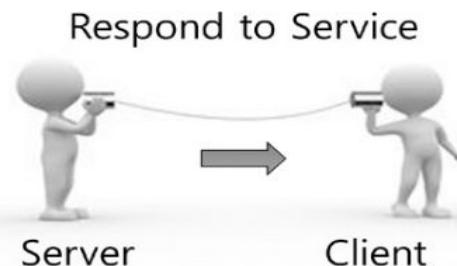
Type	Features	Use cases
Topic	Asynchronous, unidirectional	Continuous data streams
Service	Synchronous, bidirectional	Request-reply with a fast response
Action	Asynchronous, bidirectional	If Service is too long to response, or if you need a feedback in process

Services

Let me see...
It's 12 O'clock!



Hey Server,
What time is it now?



ROS INSTALLATION DIRECTORY

<http://wiki.ros.org/rospy/Overview/Services>

- ❑ std_srvs packet contains standard services
- ❑ Service definition contains:
 - ❑ Request
 - ❑ Response
- ❑ Empty Request/Response allowed
- ❑ Request/Response can be any type:
 - ❑ Built-in type (float64)
 - ❑ Existing message
(geometry_msgs/Quaternion)
 - ❑ Fixed or dynamic array
(float64 [] or float64 [9])

std_srvs/SetBool

```
bool data
# e.g. for hardware enabling /
disabling
---
bool success
# indicate successful run of
triggered service
string message
# informational, e.g. for error
messages
```

std_srvs/Empty

WRITING A SERVICE SERVER

- ❑ Import service and its response from packet:

```
from test_package.srv import GetWindowMedian,GetWindowMedianResponse  
from <package>.srv import <Service>,<Service>Response
```

- ❑ Create service server:

```
rospy.Service("get_median", GetWindowMedian, handle_get_median)  
rospy.Service(name, service_class, handler, buff_size=65536, error_handler=None)
```

- ❑ Define callback function:

```
def handle_get_median(req):  
    # some service-handling code  
    return GetWindowMedianResponse(<response_data>)
```

WRITING A SERVICE CLIENT

- ❑ Block program until there is no connection to service:

```
rospy.wait_for_service("get_median")
rospy.wait_for_service(service, timeout=None)
```

- ❑ Create service client:

```
get_median = rospy.ServiceProxy("get_median", GetWindowMedian)
rospy.ServiceProxy(name, service_class, persistent=False, headers=None)
```

- ❑ Send request to service:

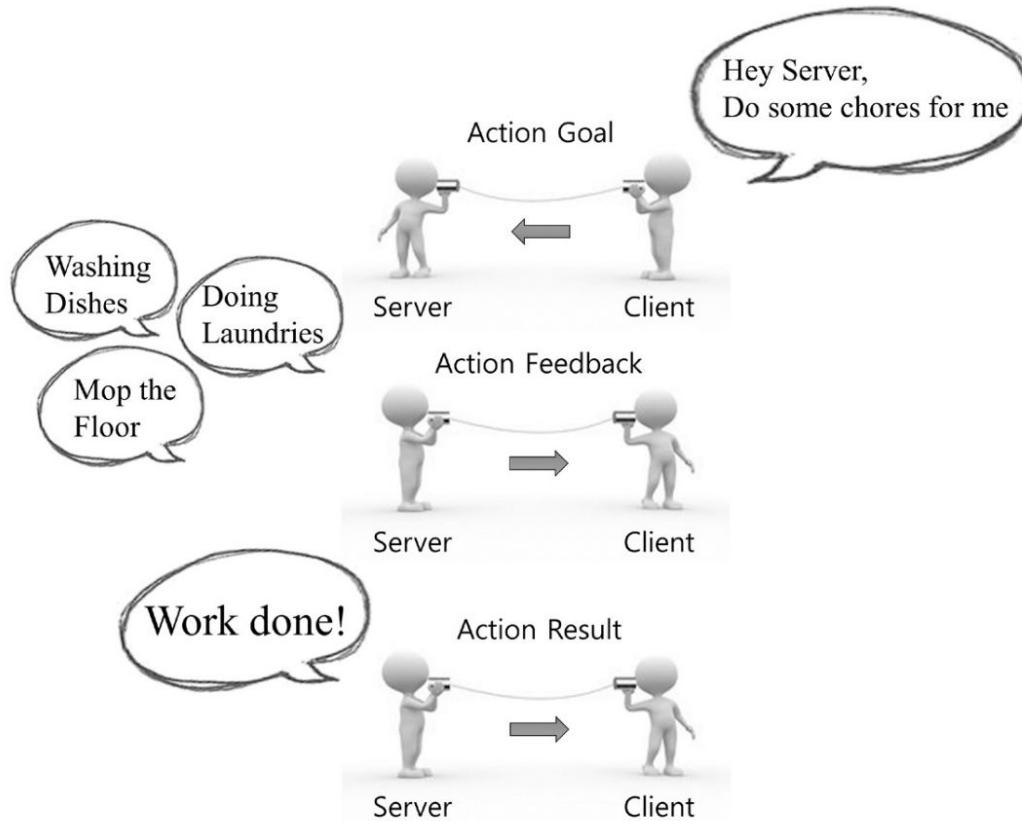
```
response = get_median(<request_data>)
```

Actions

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02

ACTIONS

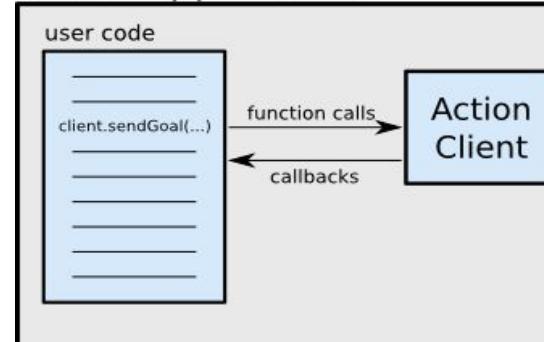


ACTIONS

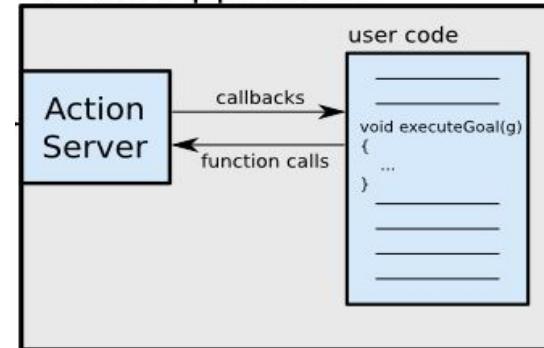
<http://wiki.ros.org/actionlib>

- ❑ actionlib packet provides an API for client-server calls for actions
- ❑ Actions made of three parts:
 - ❑ Goal
 - ❑ Feedback
 - ❑ Result
- ❑ Every part can contain any amount of fields of any type:
 - ❑ Built-in type (float64)
 - ❑ Existing message
(geometry_msgs/Quaternion)
 - ❑ Fixed or dynamic array (float64 []
or float64 [9])

Client Application



Server Application



ACTION FILE

<http://wiki.ros.org/actionlib>

- ❑ Saved in the /action directory of the packet
- ❑ Requires actionlib_msgs dependency in CmakeLists.txt и package.xml (as message_generation dependency for custom messages)
- ❑ It used to generate messages that actions use internally for communication between server and client:
 - ❑ DoDishesAction.msg
 - ❑ DoDishesActionGoal.msg
 - ❑ DoDishesActionResult.msg
 - ❑ DoDishesActionFeedback.msg
 - ❑ DoDishesGoal.msg
 - ❑ DoDishesResult.msg
 - ❑ DoDishesFeedback.msg

./action/DoDishes.action

```
# Define the goal
uint32 dishwasher_id
# specify what dishwasher we want
to use
---

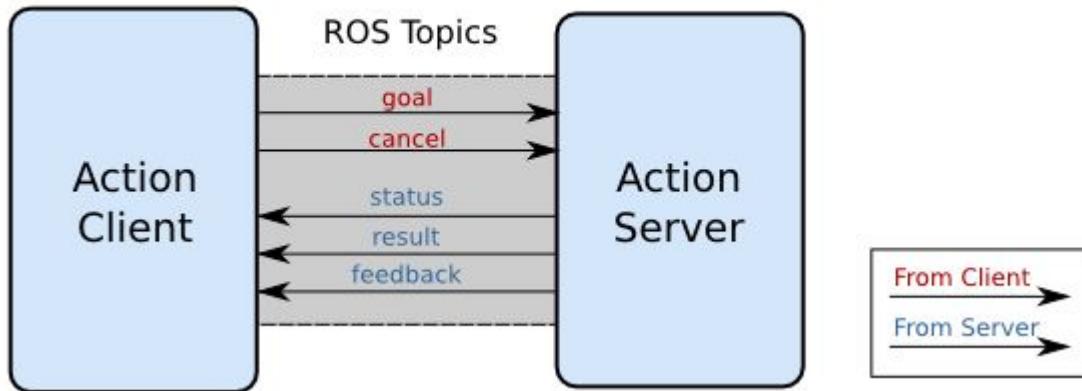
# Define the result
uint32 total_dishes_cleaned
---

# Define the feedback
float32 percent_complete
```

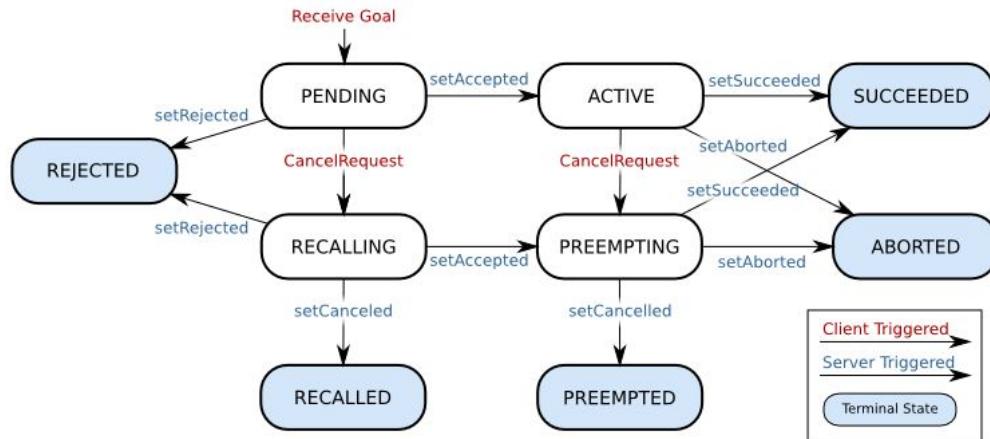
ACTIONS

<http://wiki.ros.org/actionlib/DetailedDescription>

- goal** - used to send data to action
- cancel** - for cancelling action
- status** - for getting current status of action ([possible states](#))
- feedback** - sends information from server to client during action
- result** - sends result of the action only once



Server State Transitions



Parameter server

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03

PARAMETER SERVER

<http://wiki.ros.org/Parameter%20Server>

Parameter Server – set of parameters, which is accessible by any node in the system. Used to store different parameters and provides access to them in a realtime. Runs as part of **rosmaster**.

Data types allowed by **Parameter Server** :

- 32-bit integers
- booleans
- strings
- doubles
- iso8601 dates
- lists
- base64-encoded binary data

Parameters can be accessed with a client libraries (**roscpp**, **rospy**, ...) and using CLI tool **rosparam**.

PARAMETER SERVER

<http://wiki.ros.org/Parameter%20Server>

- ❑ Getting parameters from Python code

```
global_name = rospy.get_param("/global_name")
relative_name = rospy.get_param("relative_name")
private_param = rospy.get_param('~private_name')
default_param = rospy.get_param('default_param',
                                'default_value')

# fetch a group (dictionary) of parameters
gains = rospy.get_param('gains')
p, i, d = gains['p'], gains['i'], gains['d']
```

- ❑ Setting parameters from Python code

```
# Using rospy and raw python objects
rospy.set_param('a_string', 'baz')
rospy.set_param('~private_int', 2)
rospy.set_param('list_of_floats', [1., 2., 3., 4.])
rospy.set_param('bool_True', True)
rospy.set_param('gains', {'p': 1, 'i': 2, 'd': 3})
```

- ❑ Looking for a parameter and deleting it

```
if rospy.has_param('to_delete'):
    rospy.delete_param('to_delete')
```

roslaunch

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04

ROSLAUNCH

<http://wiki.ros.org/roslaunch>

<http://wiki.ros.org/roslaunch/Tutorials/Roslaunch%20tips%20for%20larger%20projects>

- ❑ **Problem:** in a process of development complex systems often emerges a need to run many nodes, set their parameters and even select special host to run node(in case of distributed system).

ROSLAUNCH

<http://wiki.ros.org/roslaunch>

<http://wiki.ros.org/roslaunch/Tutorials/Roslaunch%20tips%20for%20larger%20projects>

- ❑ **Problem:** in a process of development complex systems often emerges a need to run many nodes, set their parameters and even select special host to run node(in case of distributed system).
- ❑ **Solution:** roslaunch - CLI tool which lets to define startup process of the system with `xml` files (with `.launch` extension) and run whole system with one command.
 - ❑ Automatically runs `roscore`
 - ❑ Command `roslaunch_add_file_check(launch)` in `CMakeLists.txt` allows to test launch file for typical syntax errors

ROSLAUNCH

```
<launch>
  <!-- local machine already has a definition by default. This tag overrides the default definition
with specific ROS_ROOT and ROS_PACKAGE_PATH values -->
  <machine name="local_alt" address="localhost" default="true" ros-root="/u/user/ros/ros/"
ros-package-path="/u/user/ros/ros-pkg" />
  <!-- a basic listener node -->
  <node name="listener-1" pkg="rospy_tutorials" type="listener" />
  <!-- pass args to the listener node -->
  <node name="listener-2" pkg="rospy_tutorials" type="listener" args="-foo arg2" />
  <!-- a respawn-able listener node -->
  <node name="listener-3" pkg="rospy_tutorials" type="listener" respawn="true" />
  <!-- start listener node in the 'wg1' namespace -->
  <node ns="wg1" name="listener-wg1" pkg="rospy_tutorials" type="listener" respawn="true" />
  <!-- start a group of nodes in the 'wg2' namespace -->
  <group ns="wg2">
    <!-- remap applies to all future statements in this scope. -->
    <remap from="chatter" to="hello"/>
    <node pkg="rospy_tutorials" type="listener" name="listener" args="--test" respawn="true" />
    <node pkg="rospy_tutorials" type="talker" name="talker">
      <!-- set a private parameter for the node -->
      <param name="talker_1_param" value="a value" />
      <!-- nodes can have their own remap args -->
      <remap from="chatter" to="hello-1"/>
      <!-- you can set environment variables for a node -->
      <env name="ENV_EXAMPLE" value="some value" />
    </node>
  </group>
</launch>
```

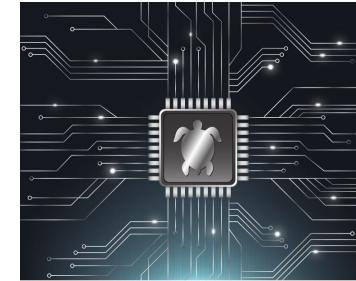
ROSLAUNCH TAGS

<http://wiki.ros.org/roslaunch>

- ❑ <launch> – root tag. Obligatory for any .launch file
- ❑ <node> – tag for starting a node.
- ❑ <machine> – defines a host which will run a node. Not used in case of local run
- ❑ <include> – allows to include external .xml file to the current one
- ❑ <remap> – remaps arguments
- ❑ <env> – sets environment variables
- ❑ <param> – sets parameter value into parameter server
- ❑ <rosparam> – sets parameter value into parameter server from the .yaml file
- ❑ <group> – applies same configuration to several nodes(ex., set of namespace).
- ❑ <test> – same as <node>, but implies running a node to test other nodes
- ❑ <arg> – set running arguments

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. Book: [ROS Robot Programming](#).
YoonSeok Pyo, HanCheol Cho,
RyuWoon Jung, TaeHoon Lim
2. [ROS Official Tutorials](#)
3. [Clearpath Robotics ROS Tutorial](#)
4. [The history of ROS creation](#)



ROS
Robot Programming

From the basic concept to practical programming and robot application.

A Handbook Written by TurtleBot3 Developers

YoonSeok Pyo | HanCheol Cho | RyuWoon Jung | TaeHoon Lim

Thanks for attention!

Questions? Additions? Welcome!

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