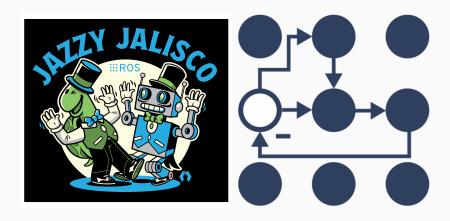
Using Ros2 Control

Driving robot motion with ROS2 Control

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Overview



Assignment 1: Installation

• Check if Rviz2 is installed:

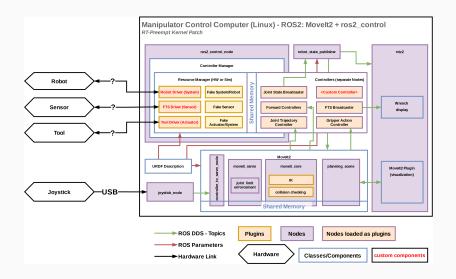
ros2 run rviz2 rviz2

- Install moveit2: https://moveit.ai/install-moveit2/binary/
- Check installation:

ros2 launch moveit2_tutorials demo.launch.py

 Bore-out preventer: https://moveit.picknik.ai/main/ doc/tutorials/quickstart_in_rviz/quickstart_in_ rviz_tutorial.html#getting-started

Overview software architecture ROS2 Control



Overview software architecture ROS2 Control

- Robot control is based on Moveit2+ros2 control
- Ros2_control nodes require configuration from .YAML files
 - Controller Manager
 - Resource Manager
 - Controllers (Joint State Breadcaster/Joint Trajectory Controller)
- Moveit planners require configuration
 - URDF
 - Moveit setup assistant to generate SRDF and .YAML files

Assignment 2: Installation

• install ros2 control if it is not already installed:

sudo apt install ros-jazzy-ros2-control ros-jazzyros2-controllers

- Ros2_control information: https://control.ros.org/ jazzy/doc/getting_started/getting_started.html
- Bore-out preventer: https://control.ros.org/jazzy/ doc/ros2_control_demos/doc/index.html

Assignment 3: Create package

• For this lesson we will use the already existing ramps16_ws downloadable from moodle.

```
cd ~
mkdir -p ramps16_ws/src
unzip ramps16_ws.zip -d ~/ramps16_ws/src
cd ramps16_ws
code .
```

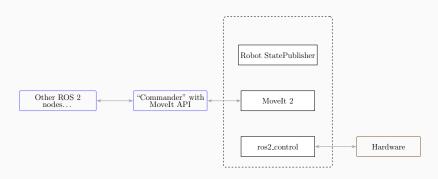
• Examine package

Interfacing with the hardware

Custom ROS2 Controller and Robot driver

- After planning is completed the plan is executed by a ros2_control node by a custom controller plugin.
- The robot driver is a part of the resource manager and is an interface between the ros2_control plugin and hardware outside the OS and the microprocessor ROS2 runs on (e.g. linux/intel I5/I7).
- Tipically, the robot driver is a part ROS2 and part pure C++ and communicates with real time hardware, running on a microcontroller (e.g. Arduino/Mbed Nucleo)
- The C++ code for the microcontroller driving the steppers and reading encoders or limit switches, (i.e. Arduino/ Raspberry PI/Nucleo-Mbed).

The hardware interface



- The hardware interface that will be a class that is converted into a plugin.
- Develop a reusable C++ Moveit commander template.

The ROS2 control controller manager

- The Controller Manager is the main component of ROS2_control and manages the lifecycle of controllers and access to the hardware interfaces.
- The ros_parameters: are
 - update_rate (int)
 - <controller_name> .type, is the name of a plugin exported using pluginlib for a controller and is the class from which controller's instance with name "controller_name" is created.
- Use a .yaml file like my_robot_controllers.yaml.
- See also https://control.ros.org/jazzy/doc/ros2_ control/controller_manager/doc/userdoc.html

The file my_robot_controllers.yaml

```
controller_manager:
ros__parameters:
 update_rate: 10
joint_state_broadcaster:
  type: joint_state_broadcaster/JointStateBroadcaster
arm_joints_controller:
    forward_command_controller/ForwardCommandController
arm_joints_controller:
ros__parameters:
 joints:["axis_1","axis_2","axis_3","axis_4","axis_5"]
 interface_name: "velocity"
```

The test

Source workspace and start bringup:

ros2 launch my_robot_bringup my_robot.launch.xml

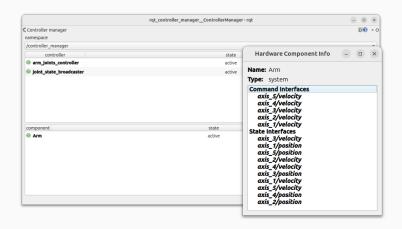
• In a second terminal run:

ros2 topic pub -1 /arm_joints_controller/commands
 std_msgs/msg/Float64MultiArray "{data:[10.0,
 20.0,30.0,40.0,50.0]}"

• in a third terminal run

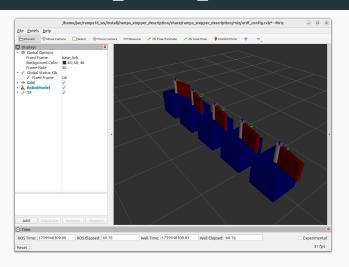
sudo apt install ros-jazzy-controller-manager
ros2 run rqt_controller_manager
 rqt_controller_manager

Assignment 4: run rqt controller manager



• use rightclick and dubbleclick to activate/deactivate or obtain additional info.

Assignment 4: run rqt controller manager



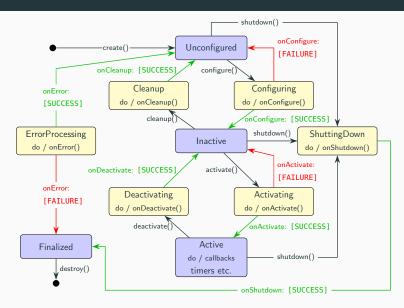
• In this case five steppers are controlled

Assignment 4: explore arm hardware interface.cpp

```
G arm hardware interface.cpp X (1) readme.md
                                                                                  D ∨ Ø Ⅲ …
      #include "arm interface.hpp"
           hardware interface::CallbackReturn
               ArmHardwareInterface::on init(const hardware interface::HardwareInfo& info)
                  if (hardware interface::SystemInterface::on init(info)
                      auto it = info .hardware parameters.find(k):
                      return it != info .hardware parameters.end() ? it->second : d;
                      auto s = get s(k);
                      trv { return s.emptv() ? d : static cast<unsigned>(std::stoul(s)): }
ROS2.jazzy ⊗0 A 0
                                                Ln 2, Col 1 Spaces: 4 UTF-8 LF ( ) C++ 🔠 ros2
```

examine arm hardware interface.cpp

Lifecycle node



Data structure

- The arm_hardware namespace encapsulates the custom hardware interface implementation keeping all related classes and functions logically grouped and preventing name conflicts.
- The ArmHardwareInterface class defines the hardware abstraction layer used by ROS 2 control. It provides standardized methods for configuration, reading sensor data, and writing actuator commands.

```
#include "arm_interface.hpp"

namespace arm_hardware
{
    } // namespace arm_hardware
```

Overrides¹

- the arm interface.hpp file contains C++ overrides.
- Why override? The C++ override specifier guarantees that
 each declared function exactly matches a virtual function in
 the base class (hardware_interface::SystemInterface or
 lifecycle hooks). This enables correct dynamic dispatch and
 produces a compile-time error if the signature drifts, improving
 safety during ROS 2 and API upgrades.
- Explore arm_interface.hpp

```
#ifndef ARM_HARDWARE_INTERFACE_HPP
#define ARM HARDWARE INTERFACE HPP
#include "hardware_interface/system_interface.hpp"
#include <rclcpp/rclcpp.hpp>
#include "SerialStreamHelper.hpp"
#include "StepperClient.hpp"
#include "StepperDriver.hpp"
#include <chrono>
#include <cmath>
#include <memory>
#include <stdexcept>
#include <string>
#endif // arm_HARDWARE_INTERFACE_HPP
```

```
namespace arm_hardware {
class ArmHardwareInterface : public hardware_interface
    ::SystemInterface{
public:
// livecycle overrides
hardware_interface::CallbackReturn
        on_configure(const rclcpp_lifecycle::State &
            previous_state) override;
hardware_interface::CallbackReturn
         on_activate(const rclcpp_lifecycle::State &
            previous_state) override;
hardware_interface::CallbackReturn
         on_deactivate(const rclcpp_lifecycle::State &
            previous_state) override;
 // namespace arm_hardware
#endif // arm_HARDWARE_INTERFACE_HPP
```

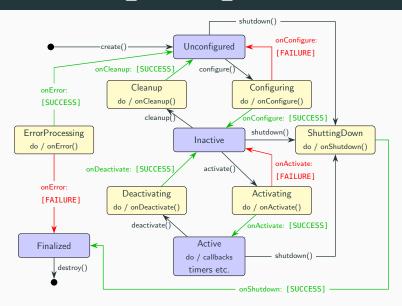
```
namespace arm_hardware {
class ArmHardwareInterface : public hardware_interface
    ::SystemInterface{
public:
 // system interface overrides
 hardware_interface::CallbackReturn
         on_init(const hardware_interface::HardwareInfo
            & info) override;
 hardware_interface::return_type
         read(const rclcpp::Time & time, const rclcpp::
            Duration & period) override;
 hardware_interface::return_type
        write(const rclcpp::Time & time, const rclcpp::
            Duration & period) override;
 // namespace arm_hardware
#endif // arm_HARDWARE_INTERFACE_HPP
```

```
namespace arm_hardware {
class ArmHardwareInterface : public hardware_interface
    ::SystemInterface{
 private:
  std::shared_ptr<SerialStreamHelper> serial_;
  int motor_id_1_;
  std::string port_;
  int baudrate_;
  float steps_per_rev_;
  bool hex_dump_;
  bool probe_;
  std::string protocol_;
  // Our stepper system bundle (driver, client, etc.)
   std::shared_ptr<stepper::System> sys_;
  }; // class ArmInterface
 // namespace arm_hardware
#endif // arm_HARDWARE_INTERFACE_HPP
```

with the hardware driver

ROS2 lifecycle node, the interface

Lifecycle node: on _init() & on _configure()



Assignment 6: explore the function on_init() 1/6

- The on_init() function is called automatically when the lifecycle node object is constructed, before the node enters any managed state.
- It allows setup operations that must occur before the lifecycle state machine starts — such as allocating memory, declaring parameters, or setting up internal variables.
- Unlike callbacks such as on_configure() or on_activate(), the node is not yet in any lifecycle state when on_init() runs.
- The function returns a CallbackReturn (typically SUCCESS or ERROR).
- Use on_init() for lightweight, non-hardware setup (logging setup, etc) — heavier resource initialization should be done by on_configure().

Assignment 6: explore the function on_init() 2/6

```
hardware interface::CallbackReturn
  ArmHardwareInterface::on_init(const
      hardware_interface::HardwareInfo& info){
if (hardware_interface::SystemInterface::on_init(info)
  != hardware_interface::CallbackReturn::SUCCESS) {
return hardware_interface::CallbackReturn::ERROR;
// Pull params from <hardware> in ros2_control yaml/URDF
auto get_s = [&](const char* k,const std::string& d=""){
auto it = info_.hardware_parameters.find(k);
return it != info_.hardware_parameters.end() ? it->
   second : d;
```

Assignment 6: explore the function on_init() 3/6

```
hardware interface::CallbackReturn
  ArmHardwareInterface::on_init(const
      hardware_interface::HardwareInfo& info){
if (hardware_interface::SystemInterface::on_init(info)
  != hardware_interface::CallbackReturn::SUCCESS) {
return hardware_interface::CallbackReturn::ERROR;
// Pull params from <hardware> in ros2_control yaml/URDF
auto get_s = [&](const char* k,const std::string& d=""){
auto it = info_.hardware_parameters.find(k);
return it != info_.hardware_parameters.end() ? it->
   second : d;
```

Assignment 6: explore the function on _init() 4/6

```
auto get_u = [&](const char* k, unsigned d) {
 auto s = get_s(k);
 try { return s.empty() ? d : static_cast <unsigned> (
     std::stoul(s)); }
catch (...) { return d; }
auto get_d = [&](const char* k, double dflt) {
auto s = get_s(k);
 try { return s.empty() ? dflt : std::stod(s); }
 catch (...) { return dflt; }
auto get_b = [&](const char* k, bool dflt) {
 auto s = get_s(k);
 if (s == "1"||s == "true" ||s == "True") return true;
 if (s == "0"||s == "false"||s == "False")return false;
 return dflt;
```

Assignment 6: explore the function on init() 5/6

```
const std::string port = get_s("port", "/dev/ttyACMO");
const unsigned baud = get_u("baudrate", 57600);
const uint8_t
     id1 = static_cast<uint8_t>(get_u("motor_id_1",1));
const uint8 t
     id2 = static_cast<uint8_t>(get_u("motor_id_2",2));
const uint8_t
     id3 = static_cast<uint8_t>(get_u("motor_id_3",3));
const uint8_t
     id4 = static_cast<uint8_t>(get_u("motor_id_4",4));
const_uint8_t
     id5 = static_cast<uint8_t>(get_u("motor_id_5",5));
const double spr = get_d("steps_per_rev", 200.0);
const bool hex_dump = get_b("hex_dump", false);
const bool probe = get_b("probe", false);
const std::string proto = get_s("protocol", "register");
```

Assignment 6: explore the function on_init() 6/6

```
// Build the config-only bundle
 sys_ = std::make_shared<stepper::System>(
 stepper::StepperDriver::Prepare(
 port, baud, id1, id2, id3, id4, id5, spr, hex_dump,
     probe, proto));
RCLCPP_INFO(get_logger(),
"Prepared Stepper System: device='%s' baud=%u id1=%u id2
   =%u id3=%u id4=%u id5=%u spr=%.1f hex=%d probe=%d
   proto=%s",
 sys_->device.c_str(), sys_->baud,
 sys_->motor_id_1, sys_->motor_id_2,
 sys_->motor_id_3, sys_->motor_id_4,
 sys_->motor_id_5, sys_->steps_per_rev,
 sys_->hex_dump, sys_->probe, sys_->protocol.c_str());
 return hardware_interface::CallbackReturn::SUCCESS;
```

Assignment 7: explore the function on configure() 1/5

- The on_configure() function is called when the node transitions from the unconfigured to the inactive state.
- It is used to initialize or allocate required resources such as publishers, subscribers, services, or action servers.
- At this stage, the node exists and has parameters available, but it is not yet performing its main activities (e.g., publishing or processing data).
- The function returns a CallbackReturn (either SUCCESS or FAILURE), which determines whether the transition to the inactive state succeeds.
- Use on_configure() for hardware setup, topic creation, and parameter-dependent initialization — essentially preparing the node to be safely activated.

Assignment 7: explore the function on configure() 2/5

```
hardware_interface::CallbackReturn
  ArmHardwareInterface::on_configure(const
                            rclcpp_lifecycle::State&){
  (!svs_) {
  RCLCPP_ERROR(get_logger(), "System bundle (sys_) is
      null in on_configure()");
  return hardware_interface::CallbackReturn::ERROR;
  (sys_->device.empty()) {
  RCLCPP_ERROR(get_logger(), "Serial device parameter
      is empty");
   return hardware_interface::CallbackReturn::ERROR;
```

Assignment 7: explore the function on configure() 3/5

```
catch (const std::exception& e) {
 RCLCPP_ERROR(get_logger(), "StepperDriver::Init failed:
     %s", e.what());
  return hardware_interface::CallbackReturn::ERROR;
RCLCPP_INFO(get_logger(), "Stepper system initialized.");
return hardware_interface::CallbackReturn::SUCCESS;
```

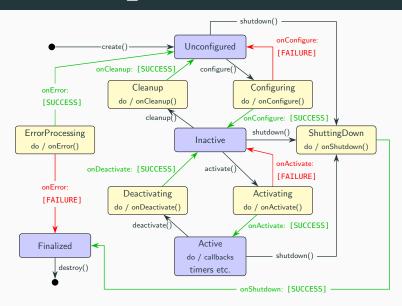
Assignment 7: explore the function Init() 4/5

- on_configure() callback calls the Init() function to establish low-level communication with external hardware (e.g., an Arduino over a serial link). on_configure() is responsible for hardware bring-up and validation.
- The Init() function first verifies that the serial device path is valid, then opens a serial connection using a SerialStreamHelper object configured with the specified baud rate.
- ullet After opening the port, it waits briefly ($pprox 1.8 \ s$) to allow the microcontroller to reset and become ready. Optionally, it scans for a "READY" banner to confirm the device is responsive, which aids in diagnostics during bring-up.

Assignment 7: explore the function Init() 4/5

- Once the serial link is verified, Init() constructs a StepperClient and a Stepper Driver, configuring retry policies, timeouts, and protocol mode (compact or register). This effectively initializes the hardware communication stack.
- Placing Init() inside on_configure() aligns with ROS 2
 lifecycle design: resource-heavy hardware setup is performed
 only when entering the inactive state, allowing safe teardown
 in on_cleanup() or reconfiguration without restarting the
 node.
- Explore StepperDriver.hpp, StepperClient.hpp and SerialStreamHelper.hpp which are included and compiled when arm_hardware_interface.cpp is build.

Lifecycle node: on activate()



Assignment 8: explore the function on_activate 1/3

- The on_activate() function is called when the node transitions from the inactive state to the active state, marking the start of its operational phase.
- on_activate() is used to enable runtime behavior such as publishing messages, processing data, or interacting with hardware components that were set up during configure.
- At this point, all necessary resources already exist and are properly configured; on_activate() simply "turns them on" for active use.
- The function returns a CallbackReturn (typically SUCCESS or FAILURE) to indicate whether the activation succeeded and the node can begin normal operation.
- Use on_activate() to activate publishers, start timers, or enable control loops—ensuring the node begins its main tasks in a well-defined, recoverable state.

Assignment 8: explore the function on _activate 2/3

```
hardware_interface::CallbackReturn
   ArmHardwareInterface::on_activate(const
                            rclcpp_lifecycle::State&){
if (!sys_ || !sys_->ready() || !sys_->driver) {
 RCLCPP_ERROR(get_logger(), "Driver not ready in
                                      on_activate()");
 return hardware_interface::CallbackReturn::ERROR;
auto& drv = *sys_-->driver;
if (drv.activateWithVelocityMode(sys_->motor_id_1) != 0)
 return hardware_interface::CallbackReturn::ERROR;
if (drv.activateWithVelocityMode(sys_->motor_id_5) != 0)
 return hardware_interface::CallbackReturn::ERROR;
```

Assignment 8:explore the function on _activate 3/3

```
set_state("axis_1/velocity",0.0);
set_state("axis_5/velocity",0.0);
set_state("axis_1/position",0.0);
set_state("axis_5/position",0.0);
return hardware_interface::CallbackReturn::SUCCESS;
```

 Do not forget to set all states to 0.0 otherwise the TF subssytem will throw a fit.

Assignment 9: explore the function read() 1/4

- The read() function retrieves the most recent sensor data or hardware state from external devices and updates the node's internal state variables accordingly.
- It forms the input stage of the control cycle, typically called before the update() and write() functions in real-time controllers or hardware interfaces.
- During read(), raw data such as joint positions, velocities, or sensor values are collected, filtered if needed, and stored in shared state buffers accessible to the controller.
- The read() function is only executed while the node is in the active state.
- Implement read() to communicate with hardware drivers (e.g., serial, CAN, or Ethernet), synchronize state feedback, and maintain consistency between the physical system and the ROS 2 control framework.

Assignment 9: explore the function read() 2/4

```
hardware_interface::return_type ArmHardwareInterface::
   read
      (const rclcpp::Time & time, const rclcpp::Duration
          & period) {
 (void)time;
 auto& drv = *sys_->driver;
 const auto& cal = sys_->cal;
 // read the current velocity of both motors
 // and update the state variables accordingly
 // we assume that the velocity is constant
 // over the period so we can integrate the
 // position by pos = pos + vel * dt
 double vel_motor_1_ = drv.getVelocityRadianPerSec(
          sys_->motor_id_1, cal);
 int32_t p1 = drv.getPositionSteps(sys_->motor_id_1);
```

Assignment 9: explore the function read() 3/4

```
hardware_interface::return_type ArmHardwareInterface::
   read
      (const rclcpp::Time & time, const rclcpp::Duration
          & period){
 double vel_motor_1_ = drv.getVelocityRadianPerSec(sys_
     ->motor_id_1, cal);
 int32_t p1 = drv.getPositionSteps(sys_->motor_id_1);
 double vel_motor_5_ = drv.getVelocityRadianPerSec(sys_
     ->motor_id_5, cal);
 int32_t p1 = drv.getPositionSteps(sys_->motor_id_1);
 if (abs(vel_motor_1_) < 0.03) { vel_motor_1_ = 0.0; }
 if (abs(vel_motor_5_) < 0.03) { vel_motor_5_ = 0.0; }</pre>
```

Assignment 9: explore the function read() 3/4

```
hardware_interface::return_type ArmHardwareInterface::
   read
      (const rclcpp::Time & time, const rclcpp::Duration
          & period){
 set_state("axis_1/velocity", vel_motor_1_);
 set_state("axis_1/position",get_state("axis_1/position"
     ) + vel_motor_1_* period.seconds());
 RCLCPP_INFO(get_logger(), "pos1=%.3f pos2=%.3f pos3=%.3
     f pos4=%.3f pos5=%.3f vel1=%.3f vel2=%.3f vel3=%.3f
      vel4=%.3f vel5=%.3f",rad1_, rad2_, rad3_, rad4_,
     rad5_, vel_motor_1_, vel_motor_2_, vel_motor_3_,
     vel_motor_4_,vel_motor_5_);
return hardware_interface::return_type::OK;
```

Assignment 10: explore the function write() 1/3

- The write() function sends command outputs from the node (or controller) to the external hardware, such as actuators, motors, or other devices.
- It forms the output stage of the control cycle, typically called after read() and update(), to apply computed control signals to the physical system.
- During write(), the latest command values—such as desired positions, velocities, or torques—are transmitted to the hardware interface or communication bus.
- The write() function is only executed when the node is in the active state, ensuring that actuator commands are sent only when the system is properly configured and safe to operate.
- Implement write() to push control data to drivers (e.g., via serial or CAN), ensuring real-time synchronization between the software controller and the physical hardware.

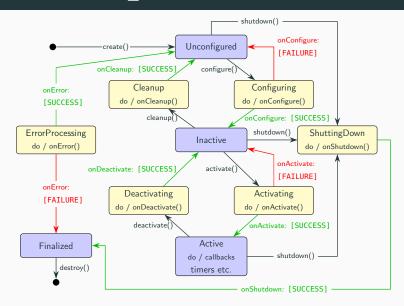
Assignment 10: explore the function write() 2/3

```
hardware_interface::return_type ArmHardwareInterface::
   write
    (const rclcpp::Time & time, const rclcpp::Duration
         & period){
(void)time;
(void)period;
if (sys_->driver->setTargetVelocityRadianPerSec(sys_->
   motor_id_1, get_command("axis_1/velocity"), sys_->
   cal) != 0)
return hardware_interface::return_type::ERROR;
if (sys_->driver->setTargetVelocityRadianPerSec(sys_->
   motor_id_5, get_command("axis_5/velocity"), sys_->
   cal) != 0)
return hardware_interface::return_type::ERROR;
```

Assignment 11: explore the function write() 3/3

```
hardware_interface::return_type ArmHardwareInterface::
   write
    (const rclcpp::Time & time, const rclcpp::Duration
         & period){
RCLCPP_INFO(get_logger(), "axis 1 vel: %lf, axis 2 vel:
    %lf, axis 3 vel: %lf, axis 4 vel: %lf axis 5 vel:
   %lf", qet_command("axis_1/velocity"), qet_command("
   axis_2/velocity"), get_command("axis_3/velocity"),
   get_command("axis_4/velocity"), get_command("axis_5
   /velocity"));
return hardware_interface::return_type::OK;
```

Lifecycle node: on deactivate()



Assignment 12: explore the function on _deactivate 1/3

- The on_deactivate() function is called when the node transitions from the active state to the inactive state, signaling that runtime operations should stop safely.
- It is used to disable or pause ongoing activities such as publishing, control loops, or hardwareo cmmands without destroying the underlying resources created during on_configure().
- During on_deactivate(), publishers and timers are typically deactivated and active control signals are set to a safe default state.
- The function returns a CallbackReturn (usually SUCCESS or FAILURE)
- Implement on_deactivate() to gracefully stop hardware
 actions, pause data streams, and ensure the system remains in
 a consistent, safe condition before reactivation or cleanup.

Assignment 12: explore the function on _deactivate 2/3

```
hardware_interface::CallbackReturn ArmHardwareInterface
   ::on_deactivate
(const rclcpp_lifecycle::State & previous_state) {
(void)previous_state;
  Stop
   (sys_->driver->setTargetVelocityRadianPerSec(sys_->
   motor_id_1, 0.0, sys_->cal) != 0)
   return hardware_interface::CallbackReturn::ERROR;
   (sys_->driver->setTargetVelocityRadianPerSec(sys_->
   motor_id_5, 0.0, sys_->cal) != 0)
   return hardware_interface::CallbackReturn::ERROR;
// wait a bit
std::this_thread::sleep_for(std::chrono::milliseconds
   (300));
```

Assignment 12: explore the function on deactivate 3/3

```
hardware_interface::CallbackReturn ArmHardwareInterface
   ::on_deactivate
(const rclcpp_lifecycle::State & previous_state) {
(void)previous_state;
 Disable
  (sys_->driver->deactivate(motor_id_1_) != 0)
   return hardware_interface::CallbackReturn::ERROR;
   (sys_->driver->deactivate(motor_id_5_) != 0)
   return hardware_interface::CallbackReturn::ERROR;
return hardware_interface::CallbackReturn::SUCCESS;
```

Summary & concluding remarks

- Setting up the lifecycle node can be challanging, take small steps and develop your hardware drivers in a pur C++ fashion outside ROS2 first.
- The ROS2 control framework is not a true real time system and on slower PC systems timing issues will eventually arise, keep this in mind when designing control loops an leave the true real time tasks to a seperate microcontroller.
- In my experience, implementing your hardware driver in .hpp form and incorporating it with ROS2 node during compilation rather than linking leads to better results.

Assignment 14: Parol_6 lifecycle node

- The challange will be to construct a lifecycle node for the parol6 robot.
- Download the code on github.
- Construct an interface between the control board and ROS2.
- https:

//github.com/PCrnjak/PAROL6-Desktop-robot-arm/
tree/main/PAROL6controlboardmainsoftware