Introduction to Robotics Winter 2023



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Lab #10

In this Lab we will add an Ultrasonic sensor to our favorite robot Eddie.

Exercise 1

Go to the eddie's repository in your workspace and create a new branch as follows:

\$ git branch -D yourname_add_ultrasonic_sensor

Proceed to the eddiebot_description package and go to the urdf/sensors directory.

Create a file called *ultrasonic_sensor.urdf.xacro* . This file will include the visual, collision, and sensor configuration of our ultrasonic sensor. Currently gazebo does not have a dedicated Ultrasonic or IR sensor (see $\frac{\#19}{}$). However, the behavior of Ultrasonic and IR sensors can be estimated using LIDAR sensors.

Eddie has an array of Ultrasonic and IR sensors on the front of its chassis. In this Lab you are asked to create two Ultrasonic sensors and have them placed like the circled sensors in the figure below:



You will be given the physical robot in the class to accurately measure the position of each sensor. The visual and collision of each sensor is a simple cuboid that

roughly represents the shape of the sensor in real world. Use the following configuration for the Ultrasonic sensors (some names may need to be changed):

```
<sensor name='ultrasonic_ping_1' type='gpu_lidar'>"
        <always_on>1</always_on>
        <update_rate>5</update_rate>
        <visualize>1</visualize>
        <topic>ultrasonic_1</topic>
        <ray>
            <scan>
                <horizontal>
                    <samples>1</samples>
                    <resolution>1</resolution>
                    <min_angle>0</min_angle>
                    <max_angle>0</max_angle>
                </horizontal>
            </scan>
            <range>
                <min>0.08</min>
                <max>4</max>
                <resolution>0.02</resolution>
            </range>
            <noise>
                <type>gaussian</type>
                <mean>0.1</mean>
                <stddev>0.005</stddev>
            </noise>
        </ray>
</sensor>
```

The sensors must be defined as a xacro macro with proper arguments. The topic name and sensor name must use xacro arguments. Create two instances of this macro with proper names in the <code>urdf/stacks/create_base.urdf.xacro</code> file and place them using joints in the correct position and orientation.

Exercise 2

Launch the robot using Gazebo the same way we did in the previous assignments. From the top right menu, add two *Visualize LIDAR* GUI modules and click on the refresh button. Select one of the ultrasonic topics in each module.

Add the teleop module, move the robot around and echo both ultrasonic topics in a terminal.

Upload

Take a screenshot of the results of the exercises and put them in a PDF file with your first, last name, and student number and send it along with all the codes in a ZIP file to the university's virtual education system.

It's been a good run.
Wishing you the best on your future endeavors,
Arash.