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# **Tutorials Documentation**

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**CHAPTER  
ONE**

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## **ENEX13004:WEEK 1 - SOFTWARE INSTALLATION**

### **1.1 PC Setup**

In this course we are utilizing a pre-configured virtual machine. The second option is to install a native Ubuntu machine with the required software. The virtual machine approach is by far the easiest option and ensures the fewest build errors during training but is limited in its ability to connect to certain hardware, particularly over USB.

#### **1.1.1 Virtual Machine Configuration (Recommended)**

The VM method is the most convenient method of utilizing the training materials: Follow the links below and install Virtual box software and ROS Melodic training VM

1. [Download virtual box](#)
2. [Download ROS Melodic training VM](#)
3. [Import image into virtual box](#)
4. Start virtual machine
  1. \*Note: If possible, assign two cores in Settings>>System>>Processor to your virtual machine before starting your virtual machine. This setting can be adjusted when the virtual machine is closed and shut down.
5. Log into virtual machine, user: `ros-industrial`, pass: `rosindustrial` (no spaces or hyphens)



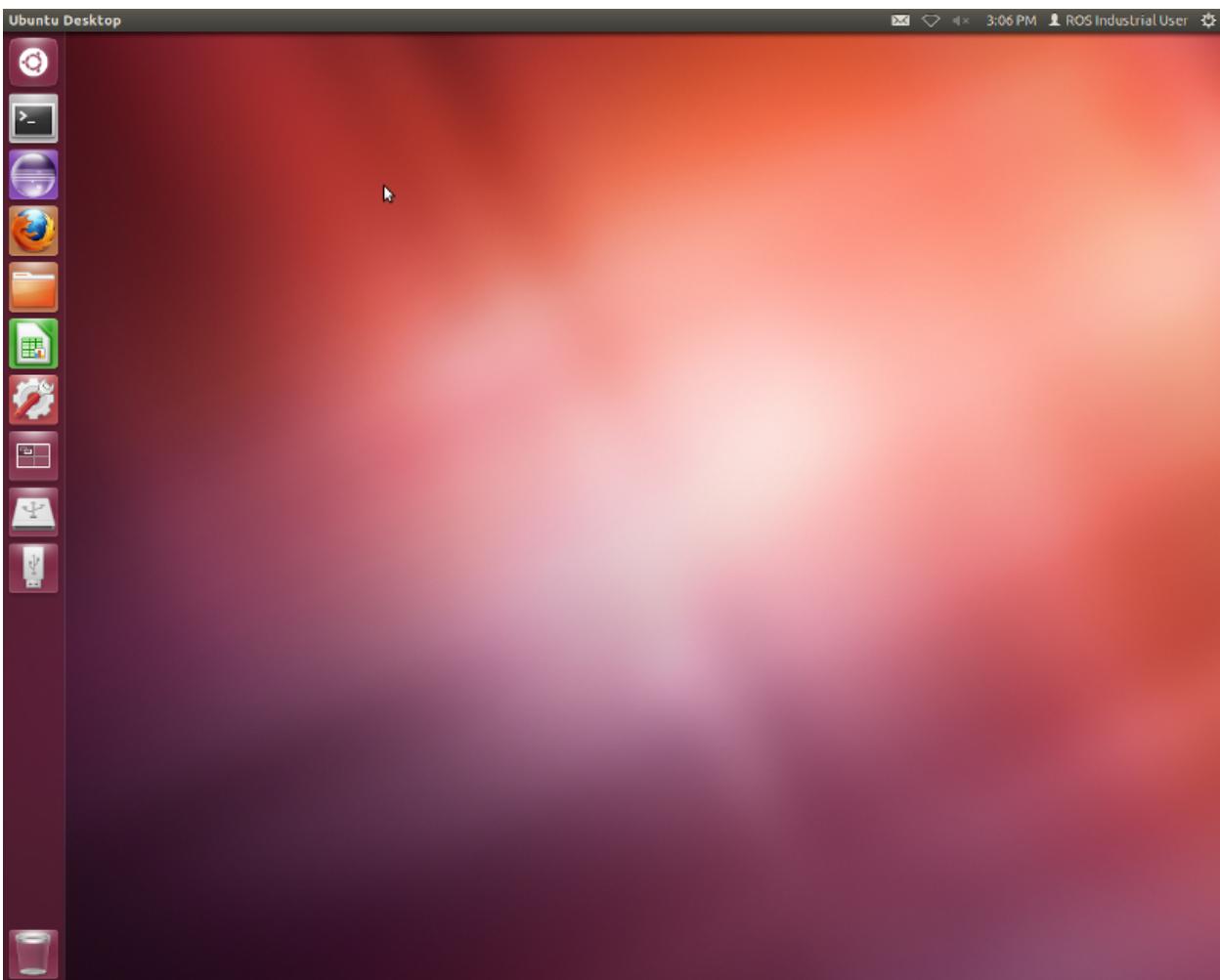
## ENEX13004:WEEK 1 -UBUNTU GUI

### 2.1 Navigating the Ubuntu GUI

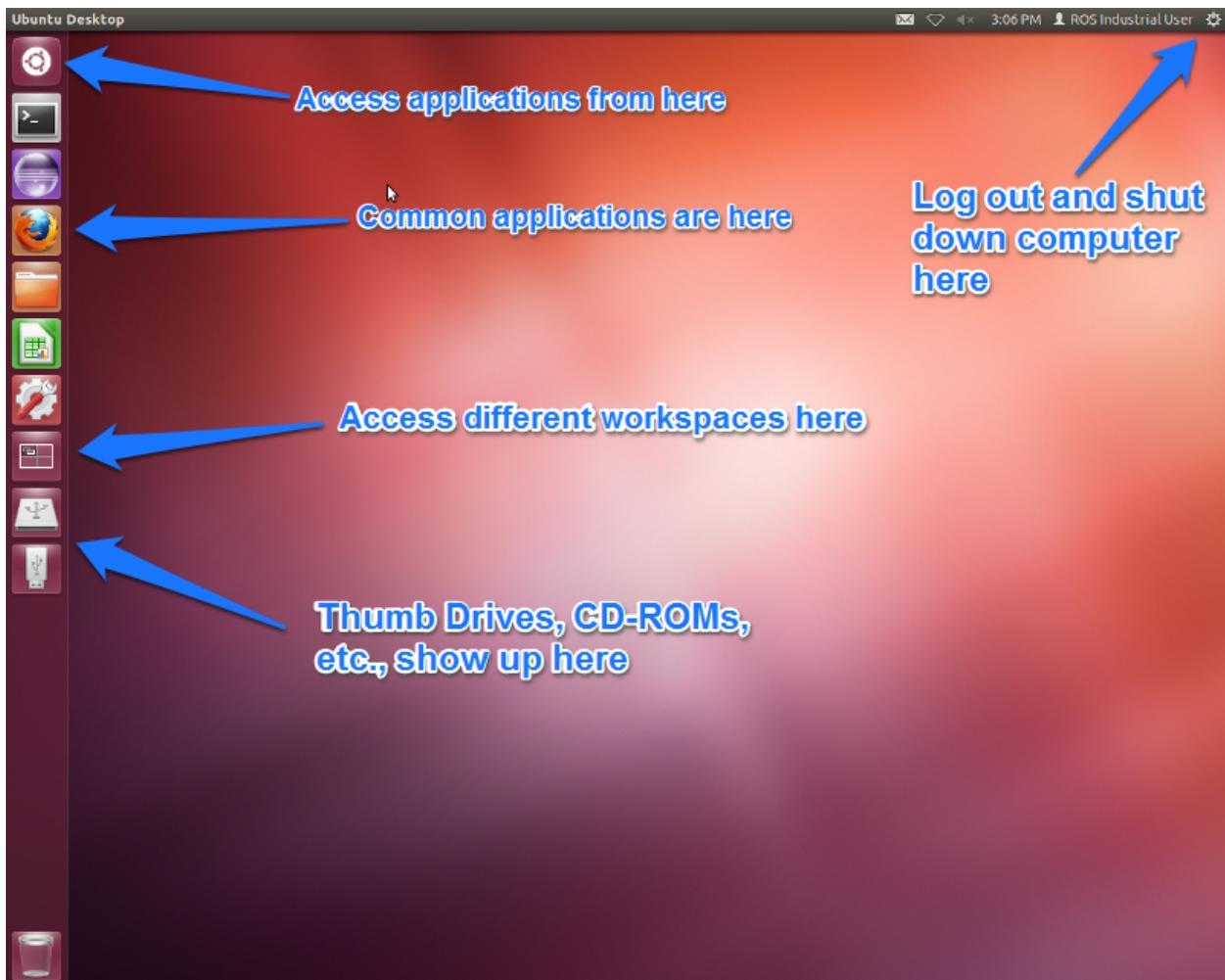
In this exercise, we will familiarize ourselves with the graphical user interface (GUI) of the Ubuntu operating system.

#### 2.1.1 Task 1: Familiarize Yourself with the Ubuntu Desktop

At the log-in screen, click in the password input box, enter `rosindustrial` for the password, and hit enter. The screen should look like the image below when you log in:



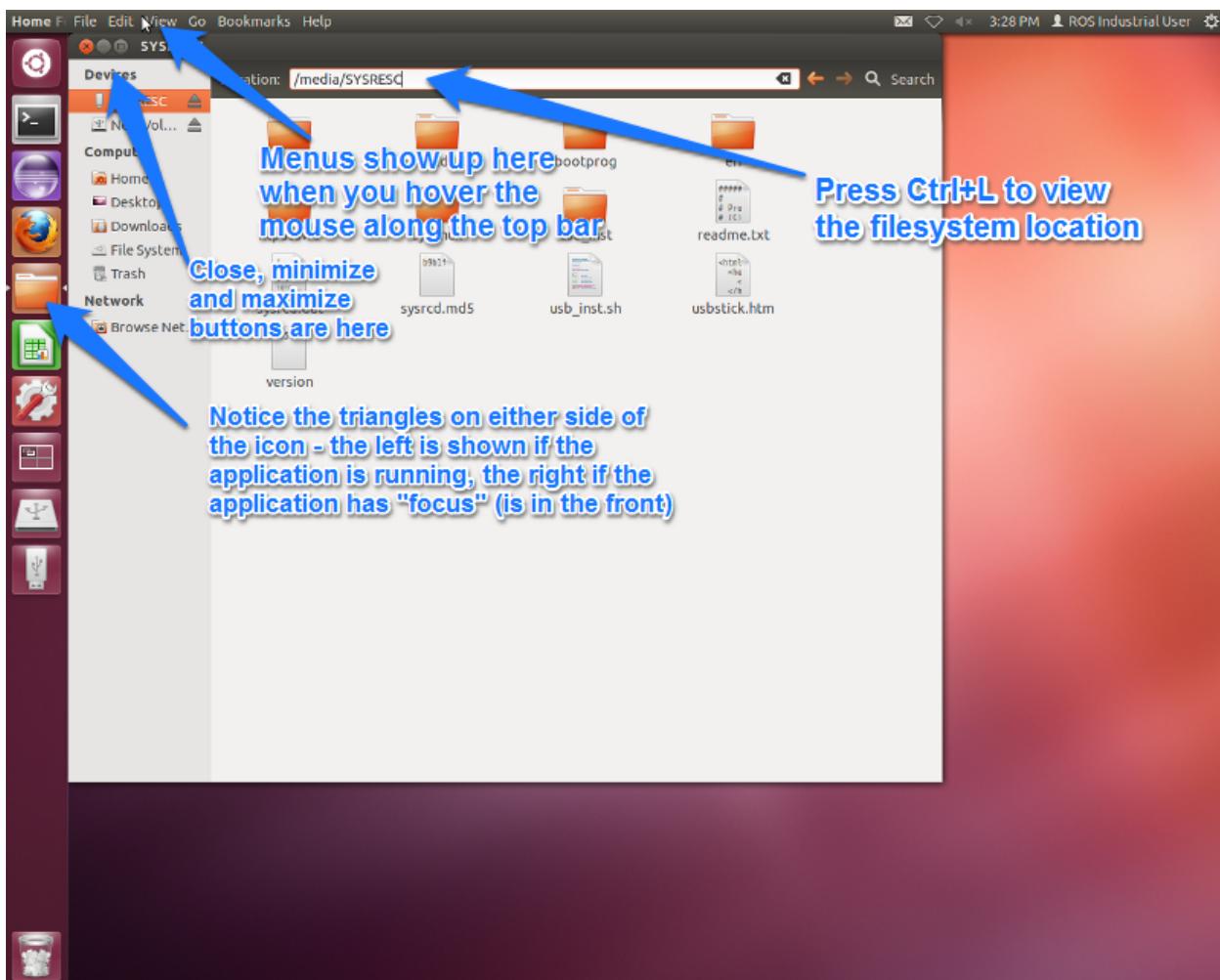
There are several things you will notice on the desktop:



1. The gear icon on the top right of the screen brings up a menu which allows the user to log out, shut down the computer, access system settings, etc...
2. The bar on the left side shows running and “favorite” applications, connected thumb drives, etc.
3. The top icon is used to access all applications and files. We will look at this in more detail later.
4. The next icons are either applications which are currently running or have been “pinned” (again, more on pinning later)
5. Any removable drives, like thumb drives, are found after the application icons.
6. If the launcher bar gets “too full”, clicking and dragging up/down allows you to see the applications that are hidden.
7. To reorganize the icons on the launcher, click and hold the icon until it “pops out”, then move it to the desired location.

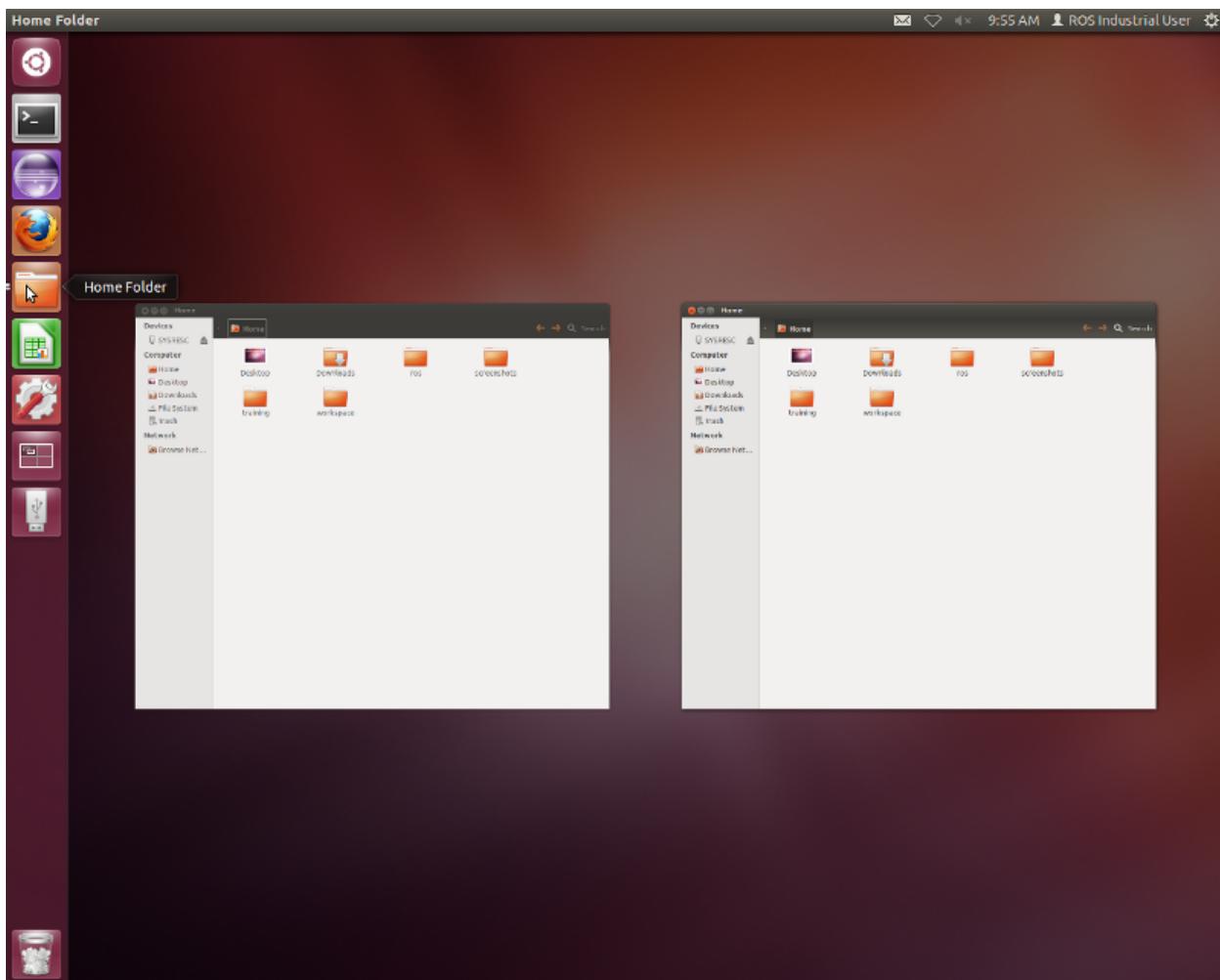
### 2.1.2 Task 2: Open and Inspect an Application

Click on the filing-cabinet icon in the launcher. A window should show up, and your desktop should look like something below:



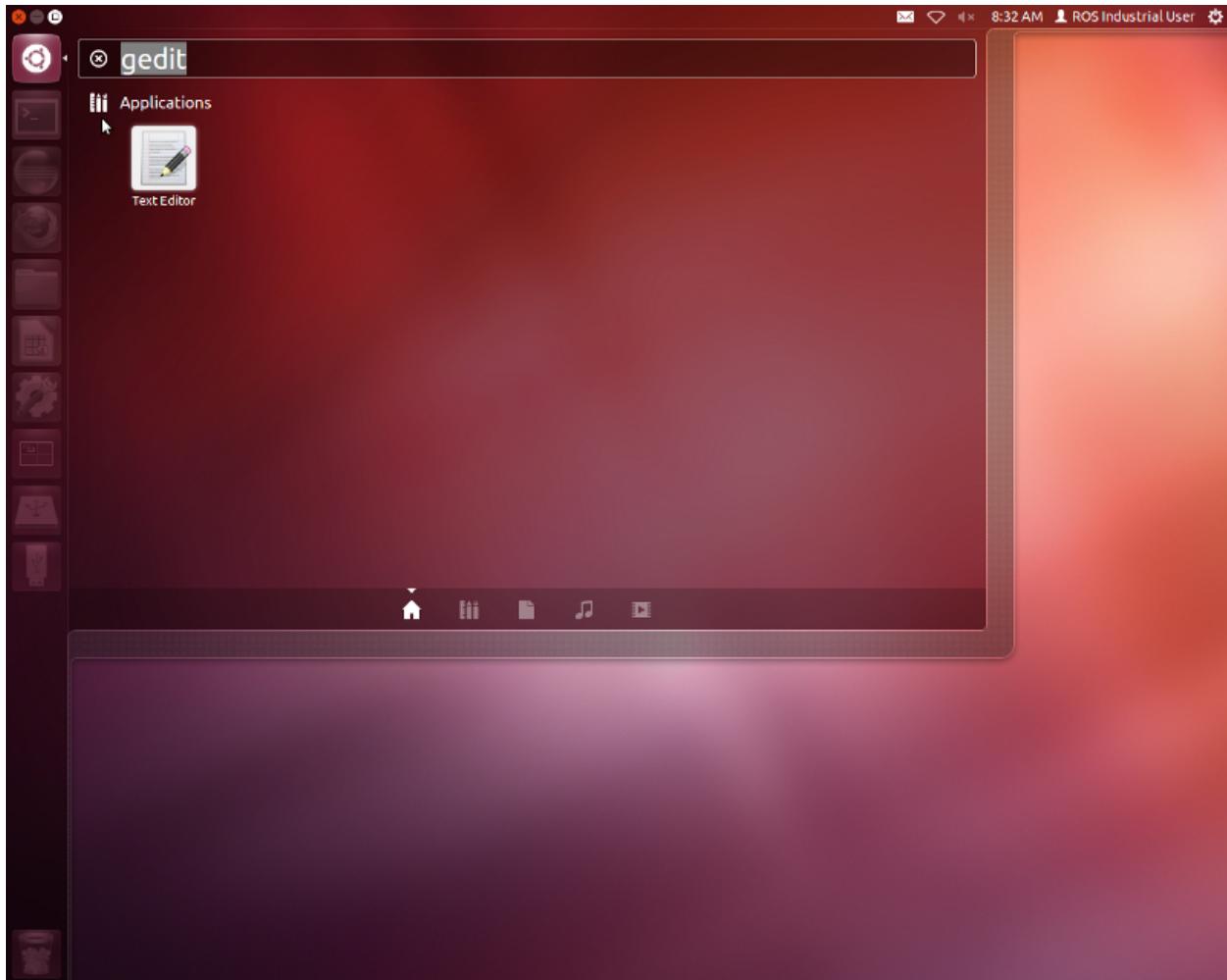
Things to notice:

1. The close, minimize, and maximize buttons typically found on the right-hand side of the window title bar are found on the left-hand side.
2. The menu for windows are found on the menu bar at the top of the screen, much in the same way Macs do. The menus, however, only show up when you hover the mouse over the menu bar.
3. Notice that there are menu highlights of the folder icon. The dots on the left show how many windows of this application are open. Clicking on these icons when the applications are open does one of two things:
  - If there is only one window open, this window gets focus.
  - If more than one are open, clicking a second time causes all of the windows to show up in the foreground, so that you can choose which window to go to (see below):

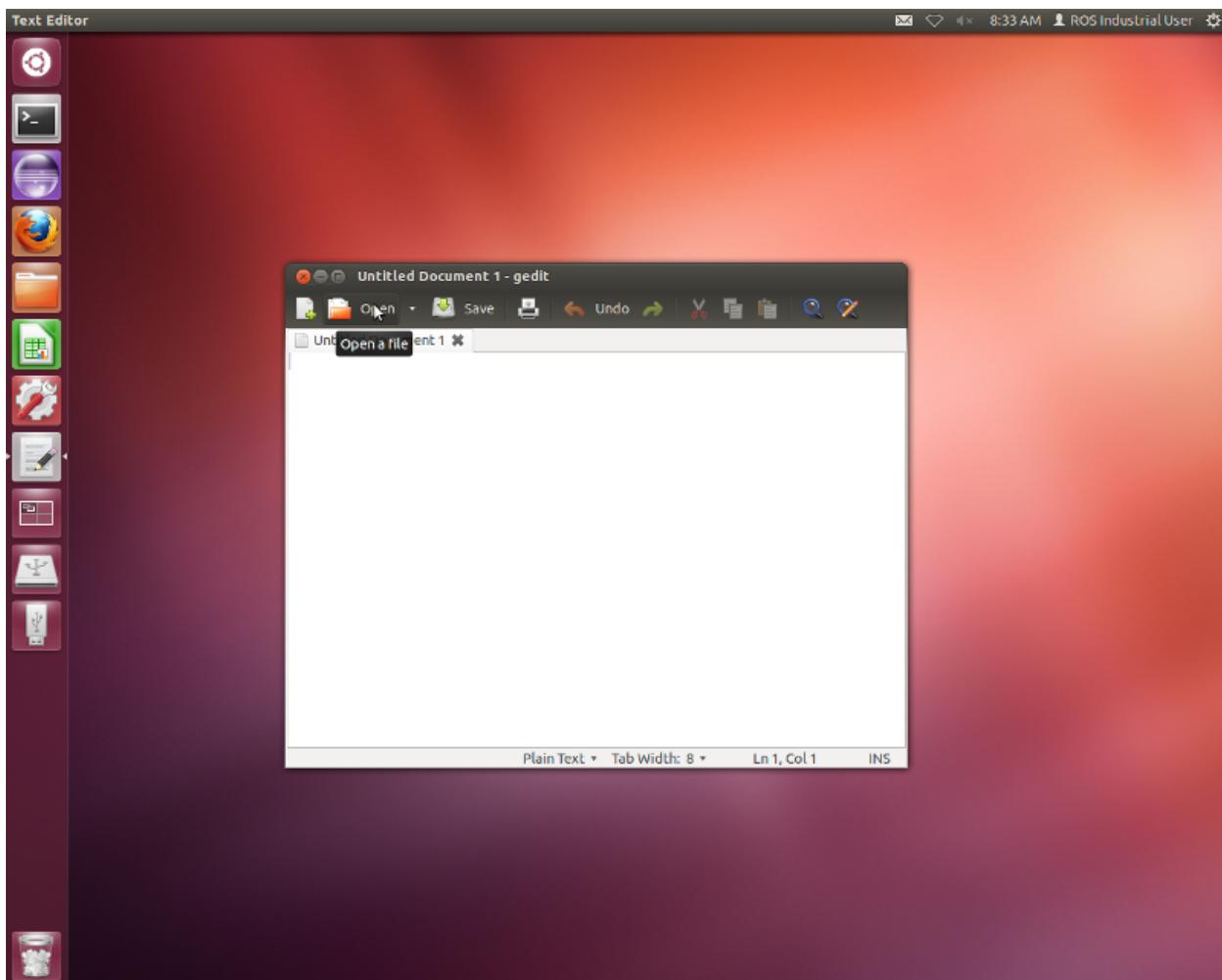


### 2.1.3 Task 3: Start an Application & Pin it to the Launcher Bar

Click on the launcher button (top left) and type gedit in the search box. The “Text Editor” application (this is actually gedit) should show up (see below):



Click on the application. The text editor window should show up on the screen, and the text editor icon should show up on the launcher bar on the left-hand side (see below):



1. Right-click on the text editor launch icon, and select “Lock to Launcher”.
  2. Close the gedit window. The launcher icon should remain after the window closes.
  3. Click on the gedit launcher icon. You should see a new gedit window appear.



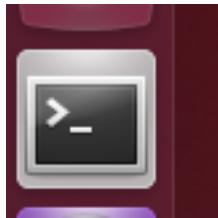
## ENEX13004:WEEK 1- LINUX BASICS

### 3.1 The Linux Terminal

In this exercise, we will familiarize ourselves with the Linux terminal.

#### 3.1.1 Starting the Terminal

1. To open the terminal, click on the terminal icon:



2. Create a second terminal window, either by:
  - Right-clicking on the terminal and selecting the “Open Terminal” or
  - Selecting “Open Terminal” from the “File” menu
3. Create a second terminal within the same window by pressing “Ctrl+Shift+T” while the terminal window is selected.
4. Close the 2nd terminal tab, either by:
  - clicking the small ‘x’ in the terminal tab (not the main terminal window)
  - typing `exit` and hitting enter.
5. The window will have a single line, which looks like this:

```
ros-industrial@ros-i-melodic-vm:~$
```
6. This is called the prompt, where you enter commands. The prompt, by default, provides three pieces of information:
  1. `ros-industrial` is the login name of the user you are running as.
  2. `ros-i-melodic-vm` is the host name of the computer.
  3. `~` is the directory in which the terminal is currently in. (More on this later).
7. Close the terminal window by typing `exit` or clicking on the red ‘x’ in the window’s titlebar.

### 3.1.2 Navigating Directories and Listing Files

#### Home Directory

The directory in which you find yourself when you first login is called your home directory. You will be doing much of your work in your home directory and subdirectories that you'll be creating to organize your files.

1. You can go in your home directory anytime using the following command ~.

```
*$cd ~
```

1. Here ~ indicates the home directory. Suppose you have to go in any other user's home directory, use the following command

```
$cd ~username
```

1. To go in your last directory, you can use the following command

```
$cd ..
```

#### Absolute/Relative Pathnames

Directories are arranged in a hierarchy with root (/) at the top. The position of any file within the hierarchy is described by its pathname.

Elements of a pathname are separated by a /. A pathname is absolute, if it is described in relation to root, thus absolute pathnames always begin with a /.

Following are some examples of absolute filenames.

```
/etc/passwd /dev/rdsk/Os3
```

A pathname can also be relative to your current working directory. Relative pathnames never begin with /. Relative to user's home directory, some pathnames might look like this

```
chem/notes personal/res
```

#### ls Command

1. Go to the home directory \$cd ~ and enter ls into the terminal.

- You should see files like test.txt.
- Directories, like Desktop, are colored in blue.
- The file sample\_job is in green; this indicates it has its “execute” bit set, which means it can be executed as a command.

2. Type ls \*.txt. Only the file test.txt will be displayed. This will display all the files with .txt extension

3. Enter ls -l into the terminal.

- Adding the -l option shows one entry per line, with additional information about each entry in the directory.
- The first 10 characters indicate the file type and permissions
- The first character is d if the entry is a directory.
- The next 9 characters are the permissions bits for the file
- The third and fourth fields are the owning user and group, respectively.

- The second-to-last field is the time the file was last modified.
  - If the file is a symbolic link, the link's target file is listed after the link's file name.
4. Enter `ls -a` in the terminal.
    - You will now see additional files, that starts with “.”. These are hidden files
  5. Enter `ls -a -l` (or `ls -al`) in the command.
    - You'll now see all details of each file such as the creation date and etc.

### **pwd and cd Commands**

1. Enter `pwd` into the terminal.
  - This will show you the full path of the directory you are working in. To determine where you are within the filesystem hierarchy at any time, enter the command `pwd` to print the current working directory
2. Enter `cd new` into the terminal.
  - The prompt should change to `ros-industrial@ros-i-melodic-vm:~/new$`.
  - Typing `pwd` will show you the path to the current directory the directory `/home/ros-industrial/new`.
3. Enter `cd ..` into the terminal to go back to the previous directory
4. Enter `cd /bin`, followed by `ls`.
  - This folder contains a list of the most basic Linux commands. *Note that `pwd` and `ls` are both in this folder.*
5. Enter `cd ~/new` to return to our working directory.
  - Linux uses the `~` character as a shorthand representation for your home directory.
  - It's a convenient way to reference files and paths in command-line commands.
  - You'll be typing it a lot in this class... remember it!

*If you want a full list of options available for any of the commands given in this section, type `man <command>` (where `<command>` is the command you want information on) in the command line. This will provide you with built-in documentation for the command. Use the arrow and page up/down keys to scroll, and `q` to exit.*

### **3.1.3 Altering Files**

#### **mv Command**

1. Type `mv test.txt test2.txt`, followed by `ls`.
  - You will notice that the file has been renamed to `test2.txt`. *This step shows how `mv` can rename files.*
2. Type `mv test2.txt new`, then `ls`.
  - The file will no longer be present in the folder.
3. Type `cd new`, then `ls`.
  - You will see `test2.txt` in the folder. *These steps show how `mv` can move files.*
4. Type `mv test2.txt ../test.txt`, then `ls`.
  - `test2.txt` will no longer be there.
5. Type `cd ..`, then `ls`.

- You will notice that `test.txt` is present again. *This shows how `mv` can move and rename files in one step.*

### cp Command

1. Type `cp test.txt new/test2.txt`, then `ls new`.
  - You will see `test2.txt` is now in the new folder.
2. Type `cp test.txt "test copy.txt"`, then `ls -l`.
  - You will see that `test.txt` has been copied to `test copy.txt`. *Note that the quotation marks are necessary when spaces or other special characters are included in the file name.*

### rm Command

1. Type `rm "test copy.txt"`, then `ls -l`.
  - You will notice that `test copy.txt` is no longer there.

### mkdir Command

1. Type `mkdir new2`, then `ls`.
  - You will see there is a new folder `new2`.

### touch Command

1. Type `touch ~/Templates/"Untitled Document"`.
  - This will create a new Document named “**Untitled Document**”

You can use the `-i` flag with `cp`, `mv`, and `rm` commands to prompt you when a file will be overwritten or removed.

## 3.1.4 Job management

### Editing Text (and Other GUI Commands)

1. Type `gedit test.txt`.
  - You will notice that a new text editor window will open, and `test.txt` will be loaded.
  - The terminal will not come back with a prompt until the window is closed.
2. There are two ways around this limitation. Try both...
3. **Starting the program and immediately returning a prompt:**
  1. Type `gedit test.txt &`.
    - The `&` character tells the terminal to run this command in “the background”, meaning the prompt will return immediately.
  2. Close the window, then type `ls`.
    - In addition to showing the files, the terminal will notify you that `gedit` has finished.
4. **Moving an already running program into the background:**

1. Type `gedit test.txt`.
  - The window should open, and the terminal should not have a prompt waiting.
2. In the terminal window, press `Ctrl+Z`.
  - The terminal will indicate that `gedit` has stopped, and a prompt will appear.
3. Try to use the `gedit` window.
  - Because it is paused, the window will not run.
4. Type `bg` in the terminal.
  - The `gedit` window can now run.
5. Close the `gedit` window, and type `ls` in the terminal window.
  - As before, the terminal window will indicate that `gedit` is finished.

## Running Commands as Root

1. In a terminal, type `ls -a /root`.
  - The terminal will indicate that you cannot read the folder `/root`.
  - Many times you will need to run a command that cannot be done as an ordinary user, and must be done as the “super user”
2. To run the previous command as root, add `sudo` to the beginning of the command.
  - In this instance, type `sudo ls -a /root` instead.
  - The terminal will request your password (in this case, `rosindustrial`) in order to proceed.
  - Once you enter the password, you should see the contents of the `/root` directory.

**Warning:** *sudo* is a powerful tool which doesn’t provide any sanity checks on what you ask it to do, so be **VERY** careful in using it.



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CHAPTER  
FOUR

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## ENEX13004:WEEK 1- ROS NODE

Note: This tutorial assumes that you have completed the previous tutorials: building a ROS package (/ROS/Tutorials/BuildingPackages).

Please ask about problems **and** questions regarding this tutorial on answers.ros.org (<http://answers.ros.org>). Don't forget to include in your question the link to this page, the versions of your OS & ROS, **and** also add appropriate tags.

### 4.1 Understanding ROS Nodes

**Description:** This tutorial introduces ROS graph concepts and discusses the use of roscore (/roscore), rosnode (/rosnode), and rosrun (/rosrun) commandline tools.

**Tutorial Level:** BEGINNER

**Next Tutorial:** Understanding ROS topics (/ROS/Tutorials/UnderstandingTopics)

Contents

- 1. Prerequisites
- 2. Quick Overview of Graph Concepts
- 3. Nodes
- 4. Client Libraries
- 5. roscore
- 6. Using rosnode
- 7. Using rosrun
- 8. Review

#### 4.1.1 1. Prerequisites

For this tutorial we'll use a lightweight simulator, to install it run the following command:

```
$ sudo apt-get install ros-<distro>-ros-tutorials
```

Replace “” with the name of your ROS distribution (e.g. indigo, jade, kinetic)

#### 4.1.2 2. Quick Overview of Graph Concepts

```
Nodes (/Nodes): A node is an executable that uses ROS to communicate with other nodes.  
Messages (/Messages): ROS data type used when subscribing or publishing to a topic.  
Topics (/Topics): Nodes can publish messages to a topic as well as subscribe to a topic to receive messages.
```

```
Master (/Master): Name service for ROS (i.e. helps nodes find each other)  
rosout (/rosout): ROS equivalent of stdout/stderr  
roscore (/roscore): Master + rosout + parameter server (parameter server will be introduced later)
```

### 4.1.3 3. Nodes

A node really isn't much more than an executable file within a ROS package. ROS nodes use a ROS client library to communicate with other nodes. Nodes can publish or subscribe to a Topic. Nodes can also provide or use a Service.

### 4.1.4 4. Client Libraries

ROS client libraries allow nodes written in different programming languages to communicate:

```
rospy = python client library  
roscpp = c++ client library
```

### 4.1.5 5. roscore

roscore is the first thing you should run when using ROS.

Please run:

```
$ roscore
```

You will see something similar to:

```
... logging to ~/.ros/log/9cf88ce4-b14d-11df-8a75-00251148e8cf/roslaunch-mac  
hine_name-13039.log  
Checking log directory for disk usage. This may take awhile.  
Press Ctrl-C to interrupt  
Done checking log file disk usage. Usage is <1GB.
```

```
started roslaunch server http://machine_name:33919/  
ros_comm version 1.4.
```

```
SUMMARY  
=====
```

```
PARAMETERS  
* /rosversion  
* /rosdistro
```

```
NODES
```

```
auto-starting new master
process[master]: started with pid [13054]
ROS_MASTER_URI=http://machine_name:11311/
```

```
setting /run_id to 9cf88ce4-b14d-11df-8a75-00251148e8cf
process[rosout-1]: started with pid [13067]
started core service [/rosout]
```

If roscore does not initialize, you probably have a network configuration issue. See Network Setup - Single Machine Configuration ([http://www.ros.org/wiki/ROS/NetworkSetup#Single\\_machine\\_configuration](http://www.ros.org/wiki/ROS/NetworkSetup#Single_machine_configuration))

If roscore does not initialize and sends a message about lack of permissions, probably the `~/.ros` folder is owned by root, change recursively the ownership of that folder with:

```
$ sudo chown -R <your_username> ~/.ros
```

#### 4.1.6 6. Using `rosnode`

Open up a **new terminal**, and let's use `rosnode` to see what running roscore did... Bear in mind to keep the previous terminal open either by opening a new tab or simply minimizing it.

**Note:** When opening a new terminal your environment **is** reset **and** your `~/.bashrc` file **is** sourced. If you have trouble running commands like `rosnode` then you might need to add some environment setup files to your `~/.bashrc` **or** manually re-source them.

`rosnode` displays information about the ROS nodes that are currently running. The `rosnode list` command lists these active nodes:

```
$ rosnode list
```

```
You will see:
```

```
/rosout
```

This showed us that there is only one node running: `rosout` (`/rosout`). This is always running as it collects and logs nodes' debugging output.

The `rosnode info` command returns information about a specific node.

```
$ rosnode info /rosout
```

This gave us some more information about `rosout`, such as the fact that it publishes `/rosout_agg`.

```
-----
Node [/rosout]
Publications:
* /rosout_agg [rosgraph_msgs/Log]
```

```
Subscriptions:
* /rosout [unknown type]
```

```
Services:  
* /rosout/get_loggers  
* /rosout/set_logger_level
```

```
contacting node http://machine_name:54614/ ...  
Pid: 5092
```

Now, let's see some more nodes. For this, we're going to use rosrun to bring up another node.

### 4.1.7 7. Using rosrun

rosrun allows you to use the package name to directly run a node within a package (without having to know the package path).

Usage:

```
$ rosrun [package_name] [node_name]
```

So now we can run the turtlesim\_node in the turtlesim package.

Then, in a **new terminal**:

```
$ rosrun turtlesim turtlesim_node
```

You will see the turtlesim window:

**NOTE:** The turtle may look different in your turtlesim window. Don't worry about it - there are many types of turtle (/Distributions#Current\_Distribution\_Releases) and yours is a surprise!

In a **new terminal**:

```
$ rosnode list
```

You will see something similar to:

```
/rosout  
/turtlesim
```

One powerful feature of ROS is that you can reassign Names from the command-line.

Close the turtlesim window to stop the node (or go back to the rosrun turtlesim terminal and use ctrl-C). Now let's re-run it, but this time use a Remapping Argument (/Remapping%20Arguments) to change the node's name:

```
$ rosrun turtlesim turtlesim_node __name:=my_turtle
```

Now, if we go back and use rosnode list:

```
$ rosnode list
```

You will see something similar to:

```
/my_turtle  
/rosout
```

Note: If you still see /turtlesim in the list, it might mean that you stopped the [node](#) in the terminal using ctrl-C instead of closing the window, or that you don't have the \$ROS\_HOSTNAME environment variable defined as described in Network Setup - Single Machine Configuration ([http://www.ros.org/wiki/ROS/NetworkSetup#Single\\_machine\\_configuration](http://www.ros.org/wiki/ROS/NetworkSetup#Single_machine_configuration)). You can try cleaning the rosnode list with: \$ rosnode cleanup

We see our new /my\_turtle node. Let's use another rosnode command, ping, to test that it's up:

```
$ rosnode ping my_turtle
```

```
rosnode: node is [/my_turtle]
pinging /my_turtle with a timeout of 3.0s
xmlrpc reply from http://aqy:42235/ time=1.152992ms
xmlrpc reply from http://aqy:42235/ time=1.120090ms
xmlrpc reply from http://aqy:42235/ time=1.700878ms
xmlrpc reply from http://aqy:42235/ time=1.127958ms
```

#### 4.1.8 8. Review

What was covered:

```
roscore = ros+core : master (provides name service for ROS) + rosout (stdout/stderr) +
parameter server (parameter server will be introduced later)
rosnode = ros+node : ROS tool to get information about a node.
rosrun = rosr+run : runs a node from a given package.
```

Now that you understand how ROS nodes work, let's look at how ROS topics work ([/ROS/Tutorials/UnderstandingTopics](#)). Also, feel free to press Ctrl-C to stop turtlesim\_node.

Wiki: [ROS/Tutorials/UnderstandingNodes](#) (last edited 2019-06-05 23:41:12 by LukeMeier [\(Talk\)](#))

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(<https://www.openrobotics.org/>)



## ENEX13004:WEEK 2- PYTHON TURTLESIM EXAMPLE

See the following python script.

```
#!/usr/bin/env python
import math
import rospy
import turtlesim.srv
from geometry_msgs.msg import Twist

rospy.init_node('robot_letter', anonymous=True)
velocity_publisher = rospy.Publisher('/turtle1/cmd_vel', Twist, queue_size=10)
vel_msg = Twist()
speed = 1
angular_velocity= 1

# Initial velocity values for the publisher
vel_msg.linear.x = 0
vel_msg.linear.y = 0
vel_msg.linear.z = 0
vel_msg.angular.x = 0
vel_msg.angular.y = 0
vel_msg.angular.z = 0

def move():

    #Setting the current time for distance calculus
    t0 = rospy.Time.now().to_sec()
    move_straight(2,t0)

    t0 = rospy.Time.now().to_sec()
    rotate_angle(math.pi/2, t0)

    t0 = rospy.Time.now().to_sec()
    move_straight(3,t0)

    t0 = rospy.Time.now().to_sec()
    move_circle(math.pi,t0)
```

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```
#create a new robot
create_second_robot()

# a function to move the robot forward
def move_straight(move_distance,start_time):
    vel_msg.linear.x = speed
    vel_msg.angular.z = 0
    current_distance = 0
    #Loop to move the turtle in an specified distance
    while(current_distance < move_distance):
        #Publish the velocity
        velocity_publisher.publish(vel_msg)
        #Takes actual time to velocity calculus
        current_time=rospy.Time.now().to_sec()
        #Calculates distancePoseStamped
        current_distance= speed*(current_time-start_time)
        print("curent distance %d",current_distance)
    stop_robot()

#a function to roate the robot angle
def rotate_angle(rotate_angle,start_time):
    vel_msg.linear.x = 0
    vel_msg.angular.z = angular_velocity
    current_angle = 0
    #Loop to move the turtle in an specified angle
    while(current_angle < rotate_angle):
        #Publish the velocity
        velocity_publisher.publish(vel_msg)
        #Takes actual time to velocity calculus
        current_time=rospy.Time.now().to_sec()
        #Calculates angle PoseStamped
        current_angle= angular_velocity*(current_time-start_time)
        print("curent distance %d",current_angle)
    stop_robot()

# force the robot to stop
def stop_robot():
    vel_msg.linear.x = 0
    vel_msg.angular.z = 0
    velocity_publisher.publish(vel_msg)

#move the robot in a curvey path
def move_circle(rotate_angle,start_time):
    vel_msg.linear.x = 1
    vel_msg.angular.z = angular_velocity
    current_angle = 0
    #Loop to move the turtle in an specified angle
    while(current_angle < rotate_angle):
        #Publish the velocity
        velocity_publisher.publish(vel_msg)
        #Takes actual time to velocity calculus
        current_time=rospy.Time.now().to_sec()
        #Calculates angle PoseStamped
        current_angle= angular_velocity*(current_time-start_time)
        print("curent distance %d",current_angle)
    stop_robot()
```

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```
#create the second turtlebot
def create_second_robot():
    rospy.wait_for_service('spawn')
    spawner = rospy.ServiceProxy('spawn', turtlesim.srv.Spawn)
    spawner(4, 2, 0, 'turtle2')

if __name__ == '__main__':
    try:
        #Testing our function
        move()
    except rospy.ROSInterruptException: pass
```



## ENEX13004:WEEK 2- ROS WORKSPACE SETUP

### 6.1 Create Catkin Workspace

In this exercise, we will create a ROS catkin workspace.

#### 6.1.1 Create a Catkin Workspace

1. Create the root workspace directory (we'll use `catkin_ws`)

```
cd ~/  
mkdir --parents catkin_ws/src  
cd catkin_ws
```

2. Initialize the catkin workspace

```
catkin init
```

- *Look for the statement “Workspace configuration appears valid”, showing that your catkin workspace was created successfully. If you forgot to create the `src` directory, or did not run `catkin init` from the workspace root (both common mistakes), you’ll get an error message like “WARNING: Source space does not yet exist”.*

3. Build the workspace. This command may be issued anywhere under the workspace root-directory (i.e. `catkin_ws`).

```
catkin make  
ls
```

- *See that the `catkin_ws` directory now contains additional directories (`build`, `devel`, `logs`).*

4. These new directories can be safely deleted at any time (either manually, or using `catkin clean`). Note that catkin never changes any files in the `src` directory. Re-run `catkin build` to re-create the `build/devel/logs` directories.

```
catkin clean  
ls  
catkin make  
ls
```

5. Make the workspace visible to ROS. Source the setup file in the `devel` directory.

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

- *This file MUST be sourced for every new terminal.*
- To save typing, add this to your `~/.bashrc` file, so it is automatically sourced for each new terminal:
  1. `gedit ~/.bashrc`
  2. add to the end: `source ~/catkin_ws/devel/setup.bash`
  3. save and close the editor

`serial_manipulator.md`

## ENEX13004:WEEK 3- ROBOTIC ARM SIMULATION WITH RVIZ AND URDF

### 7.1 Creating a 3 Link Robotic Arm Using URDF

In this exercise, we will build a 3 Link Robotic Manipulator using the Unified Robotic Description Format (URDF). It is an XML file format used in ROS to describe all elements of a robot and can be used to define a robot to its component level. We will then use RVIZ to simulate that robot.

First Let's create a ros package to define the URDF definitions.

1. Goto your catkin\_ws and to the src folder and create a package

```
catkin_create_pkg serial_link_robot tf2 tf2_ros roscpp rospy turtlesim
```

then do catkin\_make to build the project. Now you have project folder to create URDF

2. Goto the project folder and build a urdf folder to include the urdf files

```
cd ~/catkin_ws/src/serial_link_robot  
mkdir urdf
```

3. Now lets create our first URDF file. Inside the urdf folder create a file called'serial\_link\_robot.urdf'

```
gedit serial_link_robot.urdf
```

4. Now let's create our first link of the robot. Copy the following xml commands to the 'serial\_link\_robot.urdf' file..

```
<?xml version='1.0'?>  
<robot name="serial_Link_robot">  
  <!-- Base Link -->  
  <link name="base_link">  
    <visual>  
      <origin xyz="0 0 0.1" rpy="0 0 0" />  
      <geometry>  
        <box size="0.4 0.4 0.2"/>  
      </geometry>  
      <material name="gray">  
        <color rgba="0.5 0.5 0.5 0.5"/>  
      </material>  
    </visual>  
  </link>
```

This will create the base link with the dimension 40 cm x 40 cm x 20 cm.

More information about URDF link elements can be found here <http://wiki.ros.org/urdf/XML/link>. Try to understand what each of these xml components mean.

- Now let's create a launch file to display the link in RVIZ. It is a 3D visualisation software. First create a launch folder inside the package folder

```
cd ~/catkin_ws/src/serial_link_robot  
mkdir launch  
cd launch
```

- Now let's create our first URDF file. Inside the urdf folder create a file called 'serial\_link\_robot.urdf'.

```
gedit serial_link_robot_urdf.launch
```

- Now add the following launch commands to the serial\_link\_robot\_urdf.launch file.

```
<launch>  
  <!-- values passed by command line input -->  
  <arg name="model" />  
  <arg name="gui" default="False" />  
  
  <!-- set these parameters on Parameter Server -->  
  <param name="robot_description"  
    textfile="$(find serial_link_robot)/urdf/$(arg model)"  
  />  
  
  <param name="use_gui" value="$(arg gui)"/>  
  <!-- Start 3 nodes: joint_state_publisher,  
    robot_state_publisher and rviz -->  
  
  <node name="joint_state_publisher"  
    pkg="joint_state_publisher"  
    type="joint_state_publisher" />  
  
  <node name="robot_state_publisher"  
    pkg="robot_state_publisher"  
    type="state_publisher" />  
  
  <node name="rviz" pkg="rviz" type="rviz"  
    args="-d $(find serial_link_robot)/urdf.rviz"  
    required="true" />  
</launch>
```

- This ros-launch file performs the following:

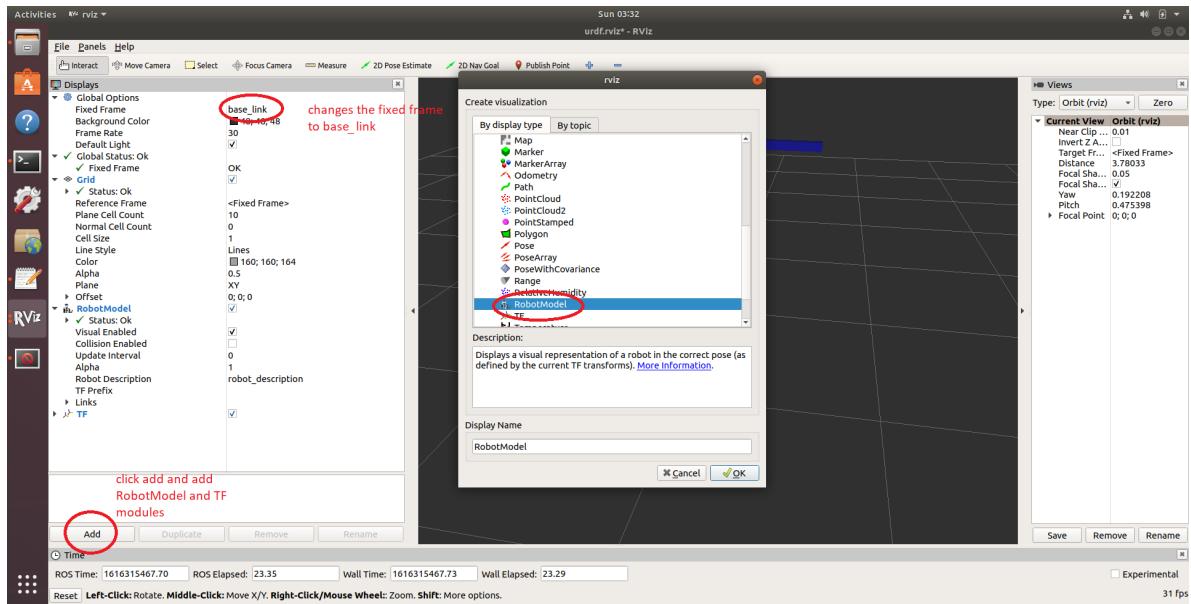
- Loads the model specified in the command line into the Parameter Server.
- Starts nodes that publish the JointState and transforms.
- Starts rviz with a configuration file (urdf.rviz).

- Now you can run the launch file by running the ros-launch command in the terminal

```
roslaunch serial_link_robot serial_link_robot_urdf.launch model:=serial_link_  
_robot.urdf
```

- This will open the Rviz window. Click on 'ADD' button (left bottom) and add 'RobotModel' and 'TF' modules. Also, change the 'Fixed Frame' in Global Options from map to base\_link. This is the global reference frame.

Save the rviz file before closing the window.



11. Now let's add a joint and another link. More information about URDF joint element can be found here <http://wiki.ros.org/urdf/XML/joint>. Its a revolute joint that rotates from -pi to +pi. See how I have added the color to the link. Also, see how I have assigned the origin of the visual component of the link. This is equal to half of the link length. Open the urdf file and add the followings before the </robot> tag.

```
<!-- Joint 1 -->
<joint name="joint_1" type="revolute">
  <parent link="base_link"/>
  <child link="link_1"/>
  <origin xyz="0 0 0.2" rpy="0 0 0" />
  <axis xyz="0 0 1" />
  <limit effort="100.0" velocity="0.5" lower="-3.14"
upper="3.14"/>
</joint>

<!-- Link 1 -->
<link name="link_1">
  <visual>
    <origin xyz="0 0 0.2" rpy="0 0 0" />
    <geometry>
      <box size="0.05 0.05 0.4"/>
    </geometry>
    <material name="yellow">
      <color rgba="1.0 1.0 0 0.5"/>
    </material>
  </visual>
</link>
```

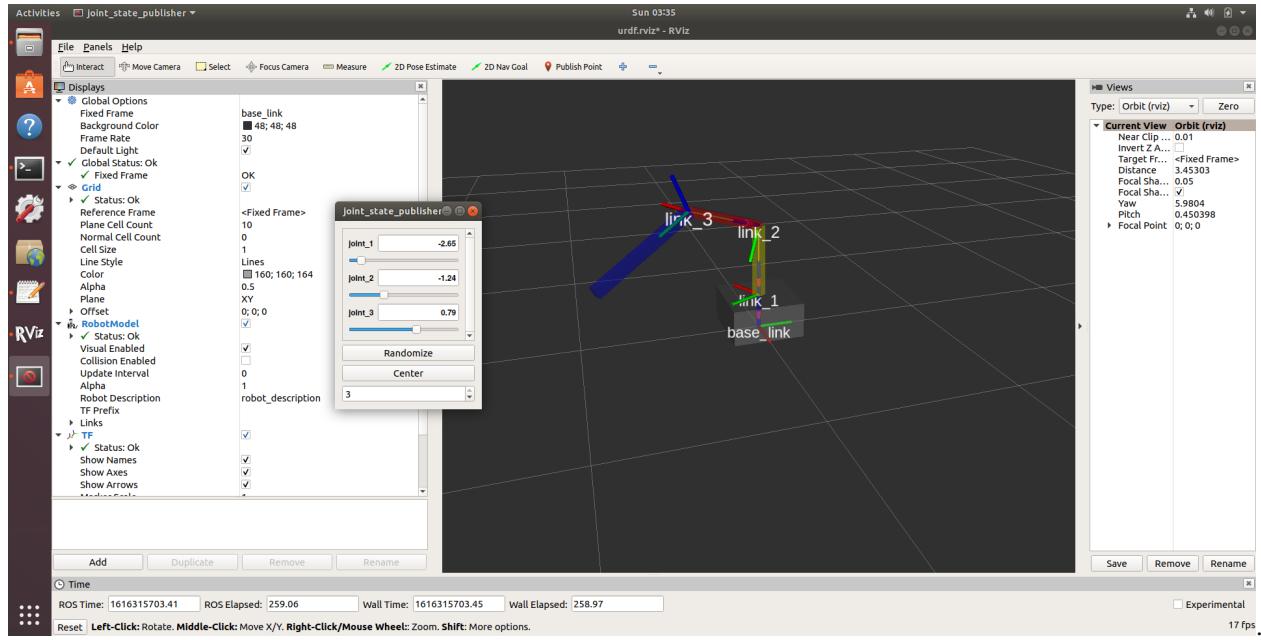
12. Now let's display and move the robot. Run the following command in a terminal

```
roslaunch serial_link_robot serial_link_robot_rviz.launch model:=serial_link_
robot.urdf gui:=True
```

The `gui` parameter open a joint state publisher window. You can manipulate the robot by chaning the joint slider bars.

13. Now lets expand the robot to a 3 link manipulator. Let's add more joints links. see the last link configuration. Its in y direction initially

See the recoded zoom class for the demo. The completed urdf file is shown below.



1. You can launch the launch file using the command shown above and manipulate the your Robot arm.

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**CHAPTER  
EIGHT**

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**INDICES AND TABLES**

- genindex
- modindex
- search