



Open Source Robotics Foundation



## Grundlagen der Robotik/Medizinrobotik

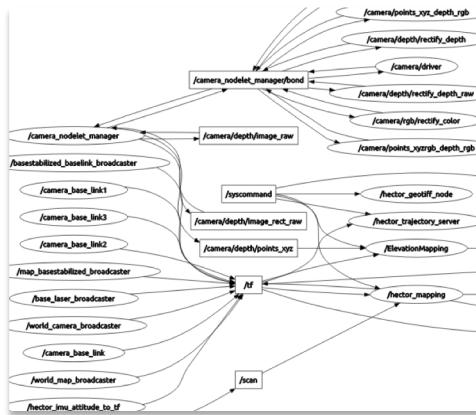
### Introduction to the Robot Operating System (a.k.a. ROS)



Universität  
Augsburg  
University

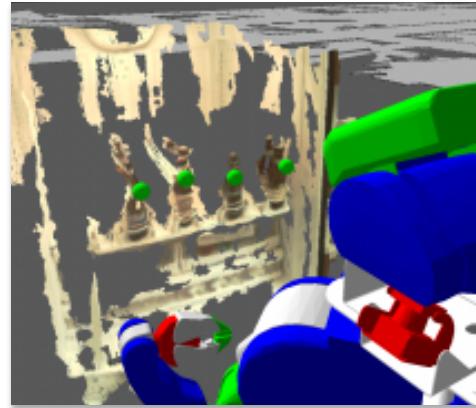
# What is ROS (Robot Operating System)?

## Plumbing



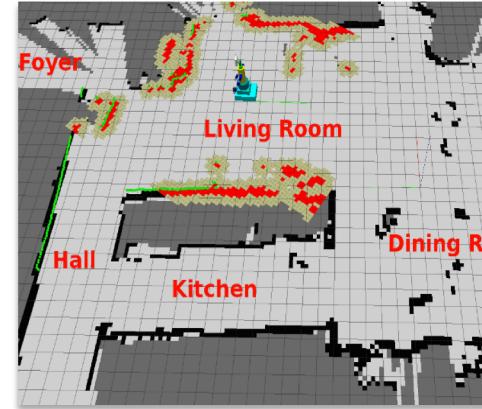
- Process Management
- Inter-process communication
- Device drivers

## Tools



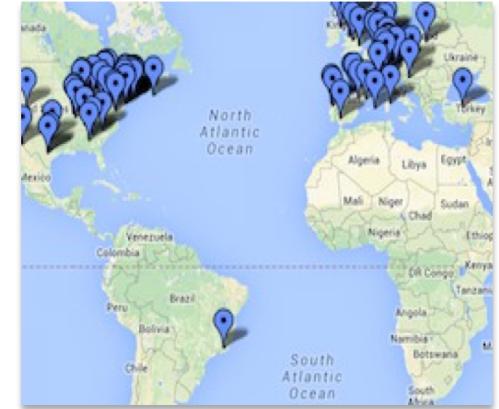
- Simulation
- Visualization
- Graphical User Interface
- Data Logging

## Capabilities



- Control
- Planning
- Perception
- Mapping
- Manipulation

## Ecosystem



- Package organization
- Software distribution
- Documentation
- Tutorials

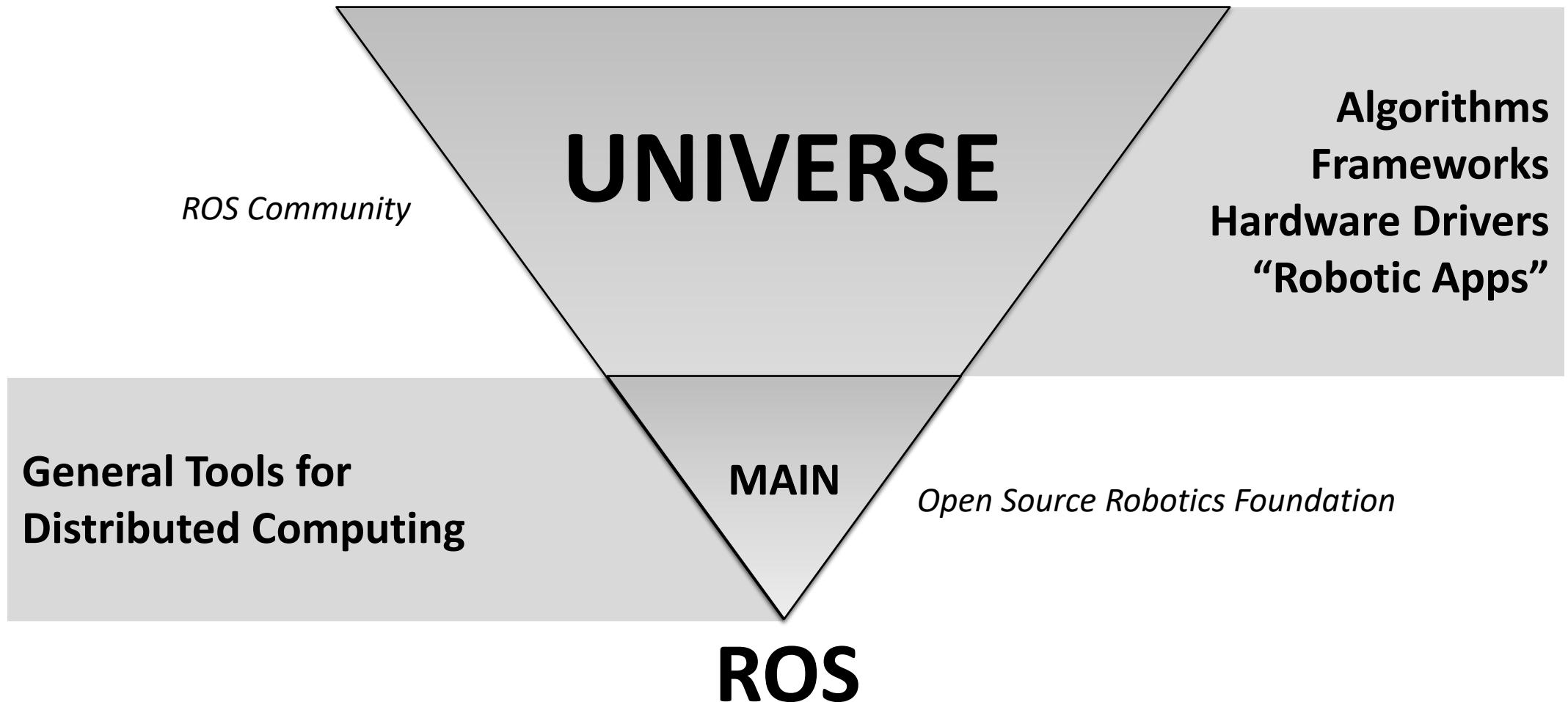
# What is ROS and what not...

- ROS is
  - a *meta* operating system for robots
  - an architecture for distributed inter-process/inter-machine communication and configuration
  - a collection of development tools for system runtime and data analysis
  - a language-independent architecture (C++, python, lisp, java, and more)
- ROS is not
  - an *actual* operating system
  - a programming language
  - a programming environment / IDE
  - a hard real-time architecture

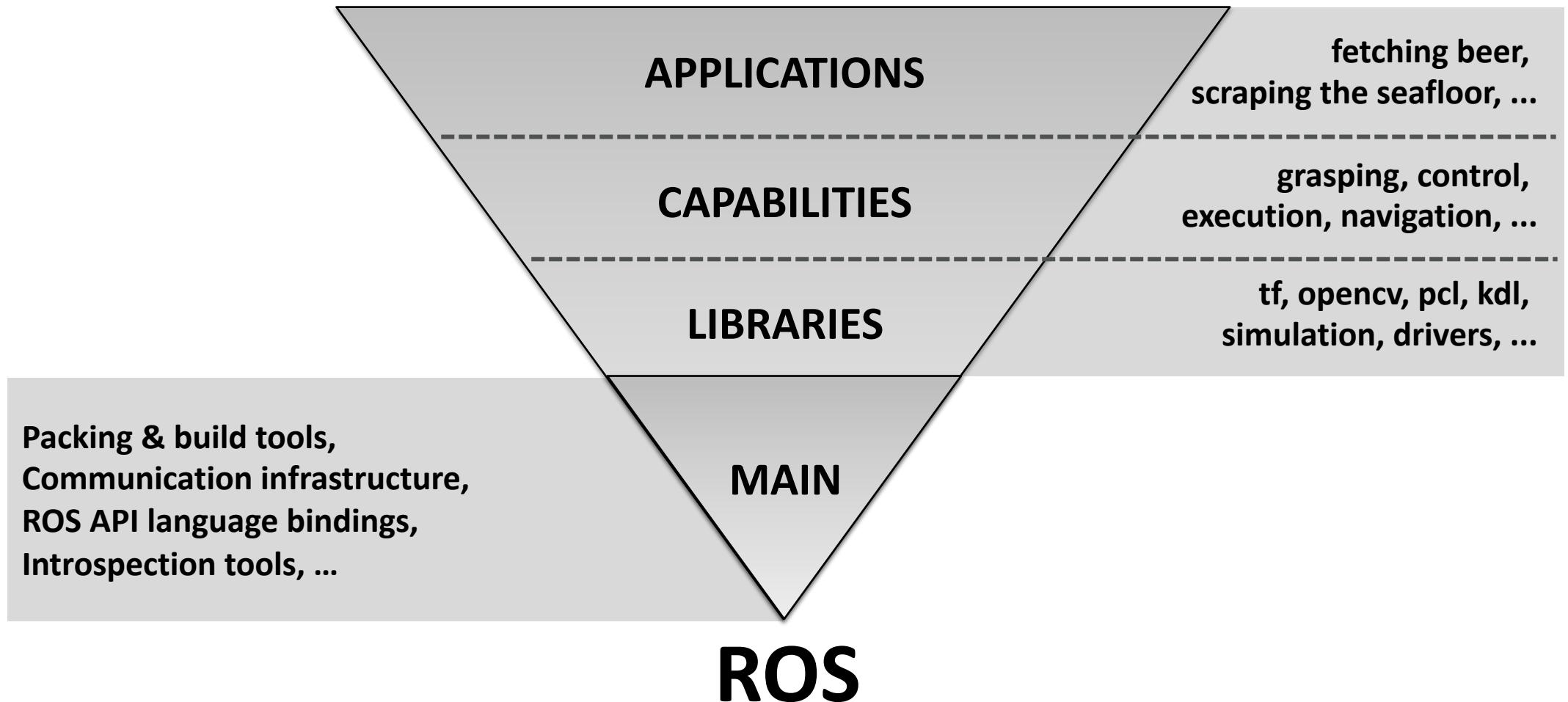


- **Peer to peer**  
Individual programs communicate over defined API (ROS *messages*, *services*, etc.).
- **Distributed**  
Programs can be run on multiple computers and communicate over the network.
- **Multi-lingual**  
ROS modules can be written in any language for which a client library exists (C++, Python, MATLAB, Java, etc.).
- **Light-weight**  
Stand-alone libraries are wrapped around with a thin ROS layer.
- **Free and open-source**  
Most ROS software is open-source and free to use.

# What does ROS get you?



# What does ROS get you?



- **ROS Master**

- Manages the communication between nodes
- Every node registers at startup with the master

ROS Master

- **Parameter Server**

Stores persistent configuration parameters and other arbitrary data

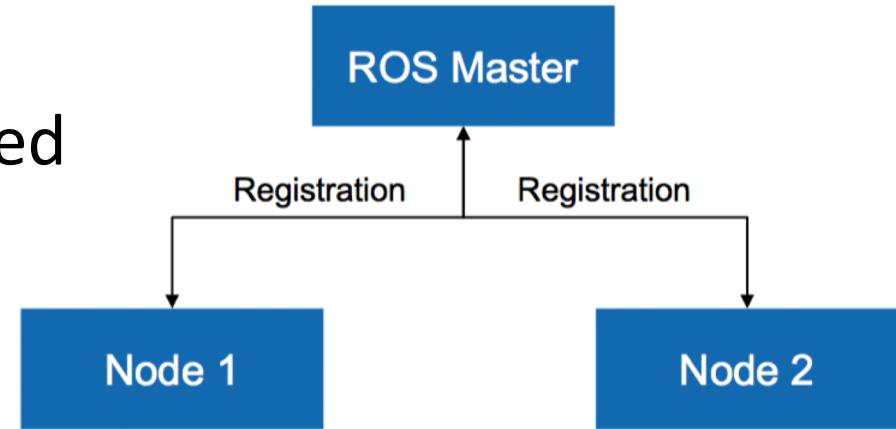
- **rosout**

Essentially a network-based *stdout* for human-readable messages

More info

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

- Single-purpose, executable program
- Individually compiled, executed, and managed
- Organized in *packages*



More info

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

- **ROS Topics**

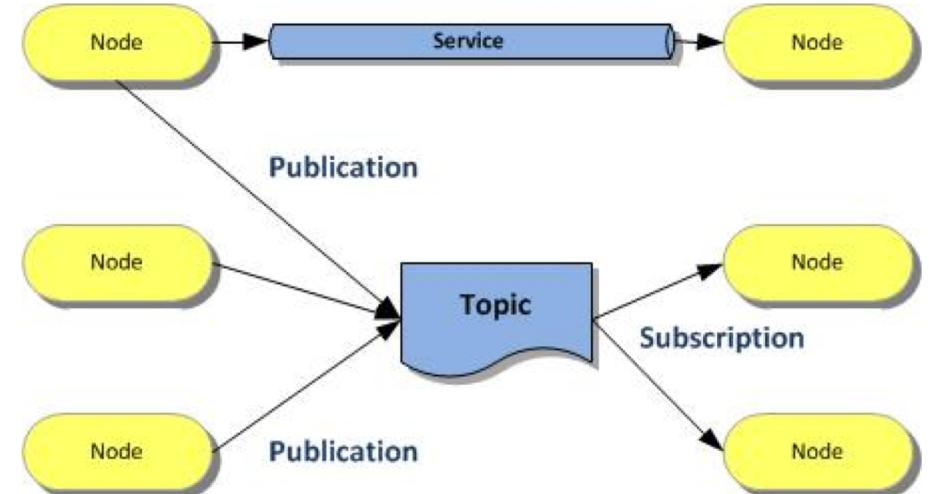
- Asynchronous “stream-like” communication
- Strongly-typed (ROS .msg spec)
- Can have one or more publishers
- Can have one or more subscribers

- **ROS Services**

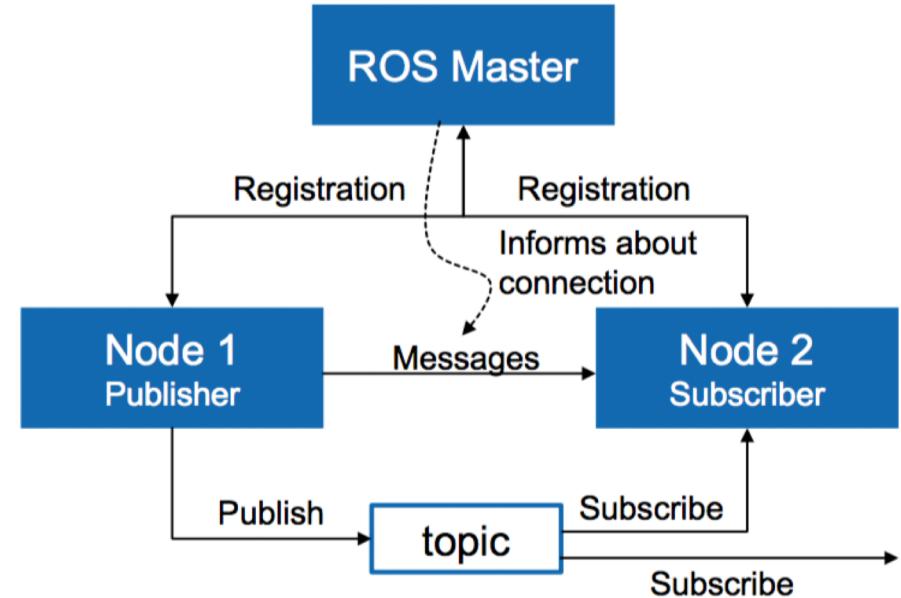
- Synchronous “function-call-like” communication
- Strongly-typed (ROS .srv spec)
- Can have only one server
- Can have one or more clients

- **Actions**

- Built on top of topics
- Long running processes
- Cancellation



- Nodes communicate over *topics*
  - Nodes can *publish* or *subscribe* to a topic
  - Typically: 1 publisher and  $n$  subscribers
- Topic is a name for a stream of *messages*



More info

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

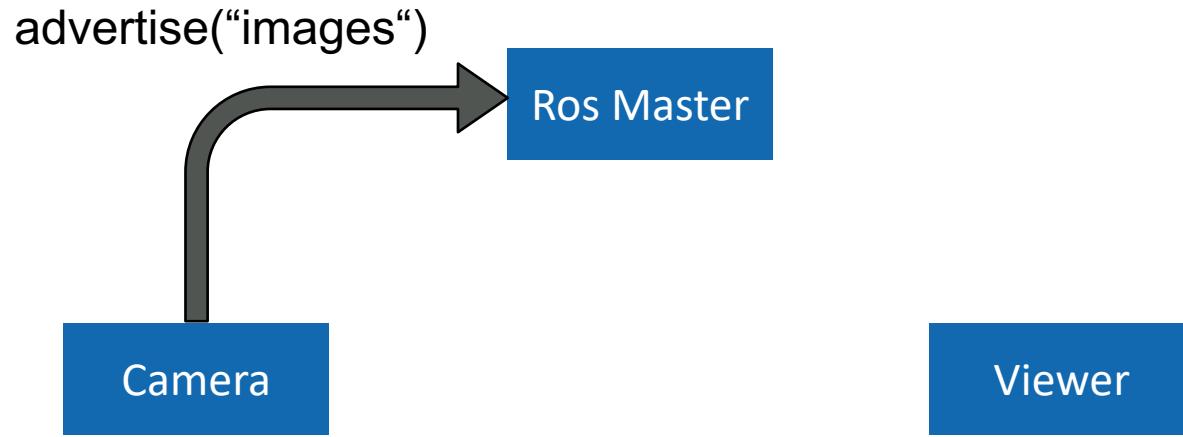
# ROS Topics Example

Ros Master

Camera

Viewer

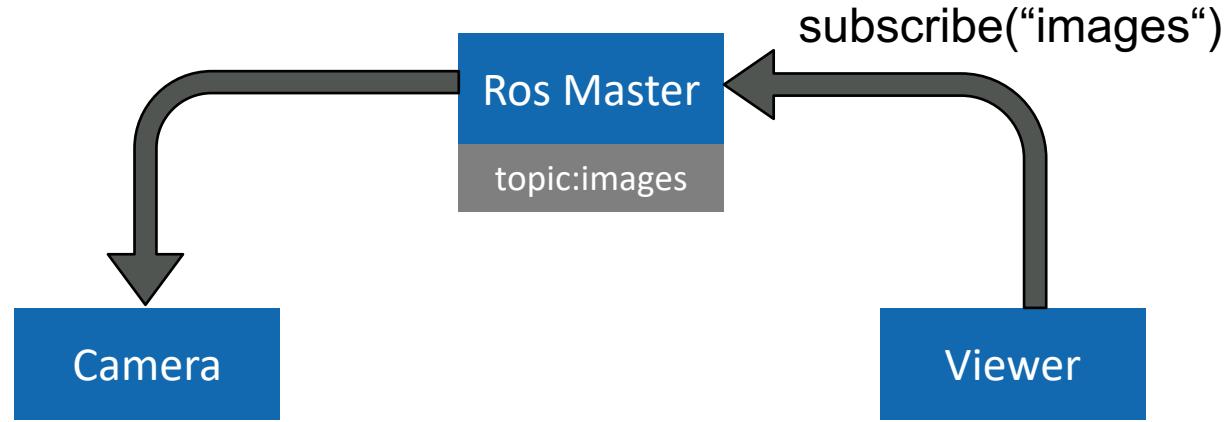
# ROS Topics Example



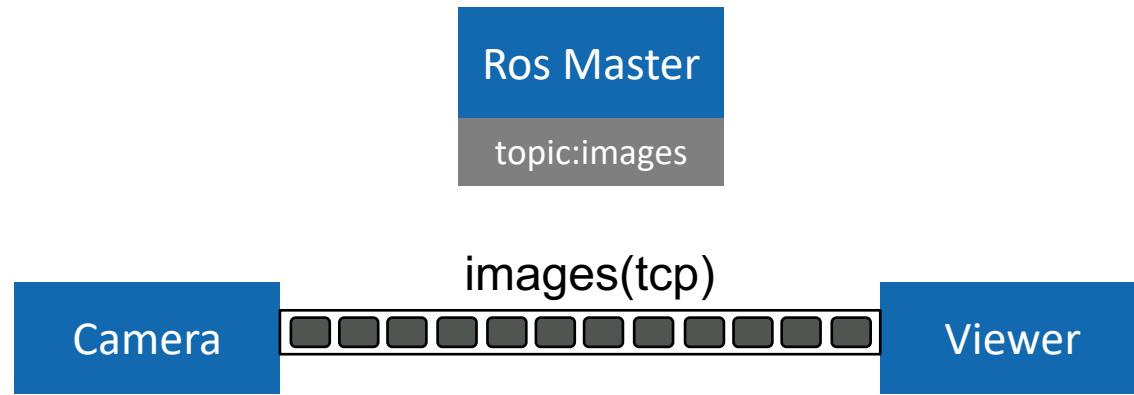
# ROS Topics Example



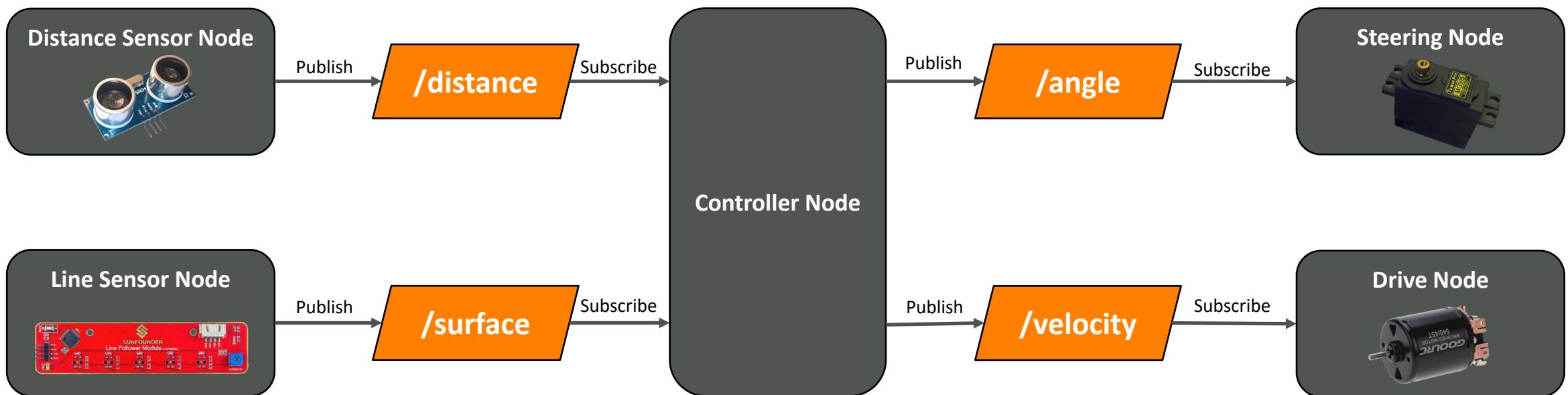
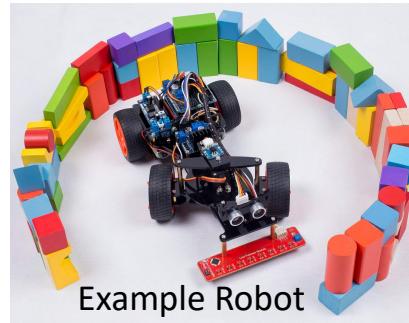
# ROS Topics Example



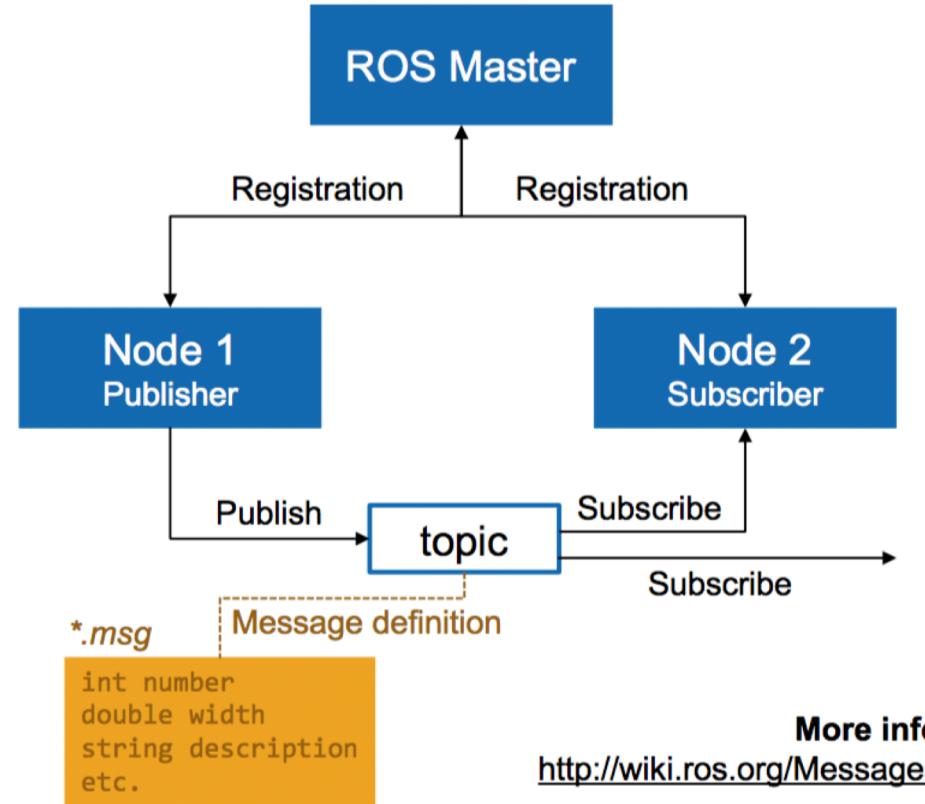
# ROS Topics Example



# Node and Topic Example



- Data structure defining the *type* of a topic
- Comprised of a nested structure of
  - integers,
  - floats,
  - booleans,
  - strings etc. and
  - arrays of objects
- Defined in *\*.msg* files



More info

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

# ROS Messages Example: PoseStamped

[geometry\\_msgs/Point.msg](#)

```
float64 x  
float64 y  
float64 z
```

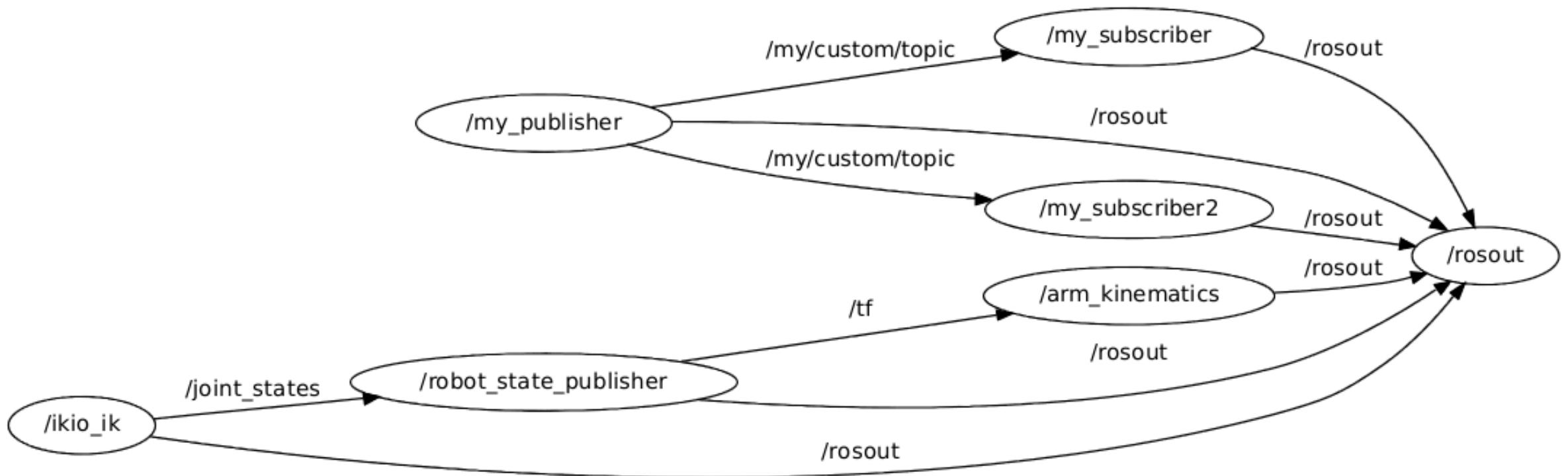
[sensor\\_msgs/Image.msg](#)

```
std_msgs/Header header  
uint32 seq  
time stamp  
string frame_id  
uint32 height  
uint32 width  
string encoding  
uint8 is_bigendian  
uint32 step  
uint8[] data
```

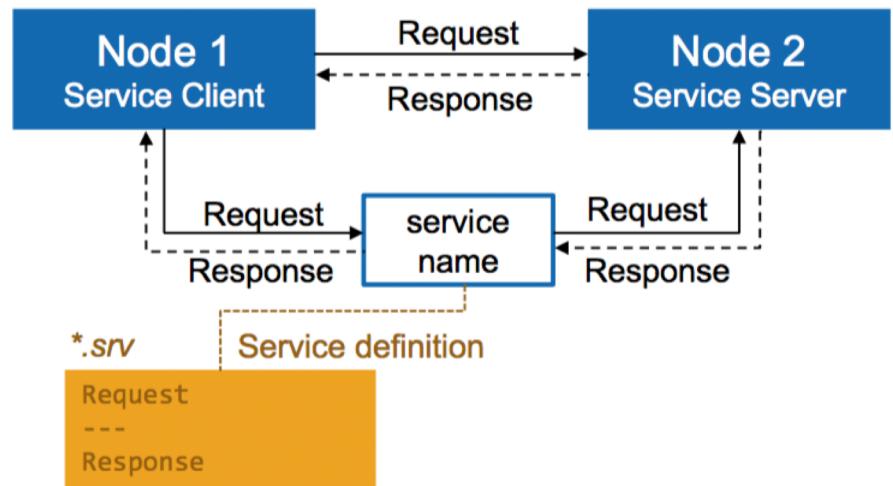
[geometry\\_msgs/PoseStamped.msg](#)

```
std_msgs/Header header  
uint32 seq  
time stamp  
string frame_id  
geometry_msgs/Pose pose  
→ geometry_msgs/Point position  
    float64 x  
    float64 y  
    float64 z  
    geometry_msgs/Quaternion orientation  
        float64 x  
        float64 y  
        float64 z  
        float64 w
```

# Graph of nodes and topics in ROS



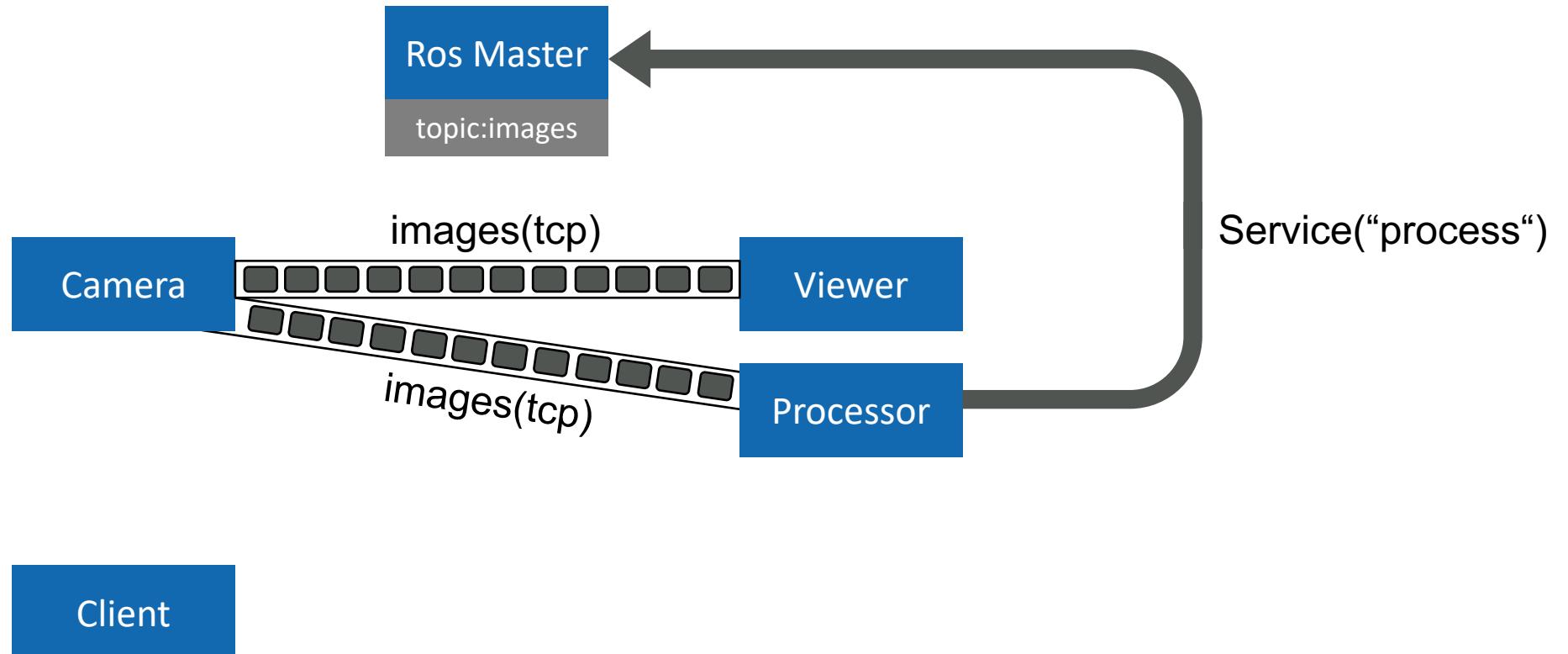
- Request/response communication between nodes is realized with *services*
  - The *service server* advertises the service
  - The *service client* accesses this service
- Similar in structure to messages, services are defined in *\*.srv* files



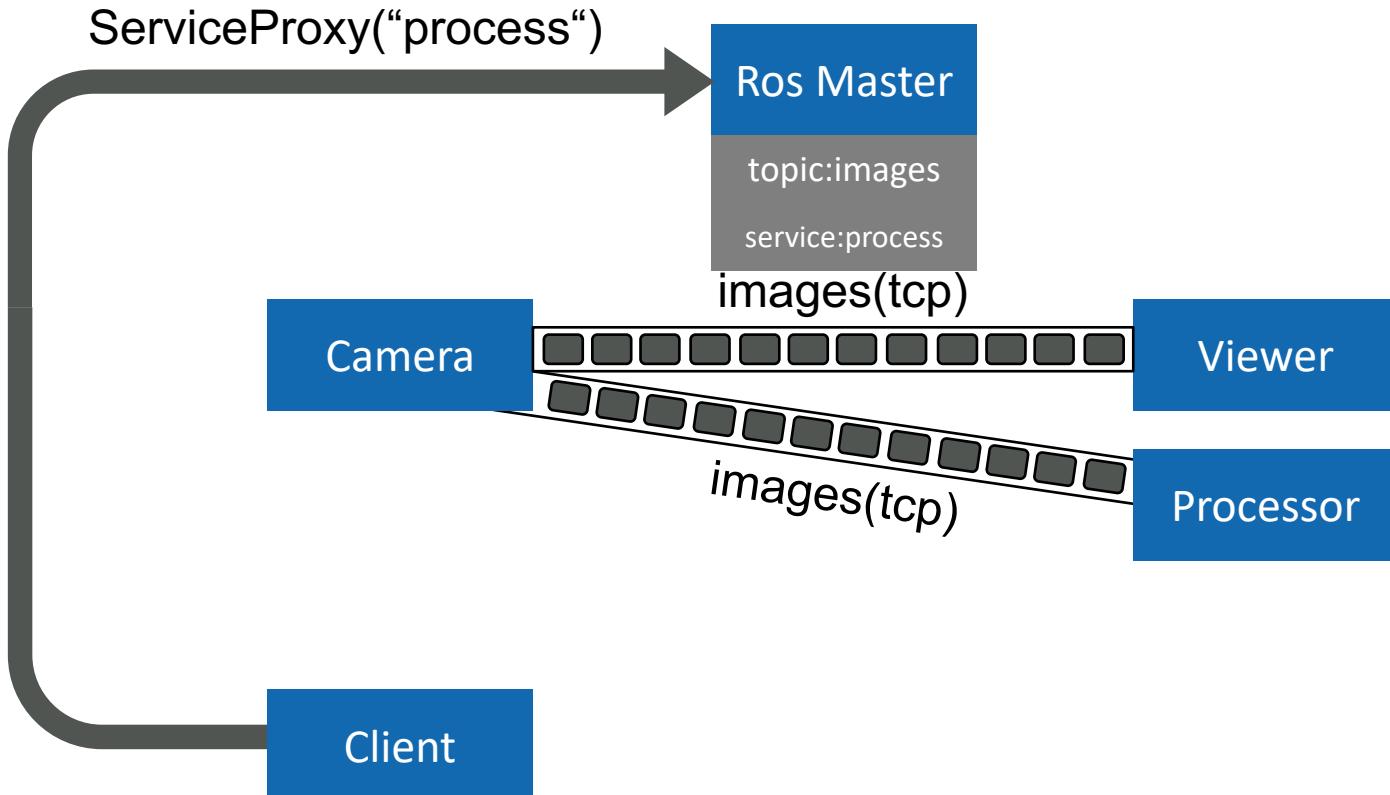
More info

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

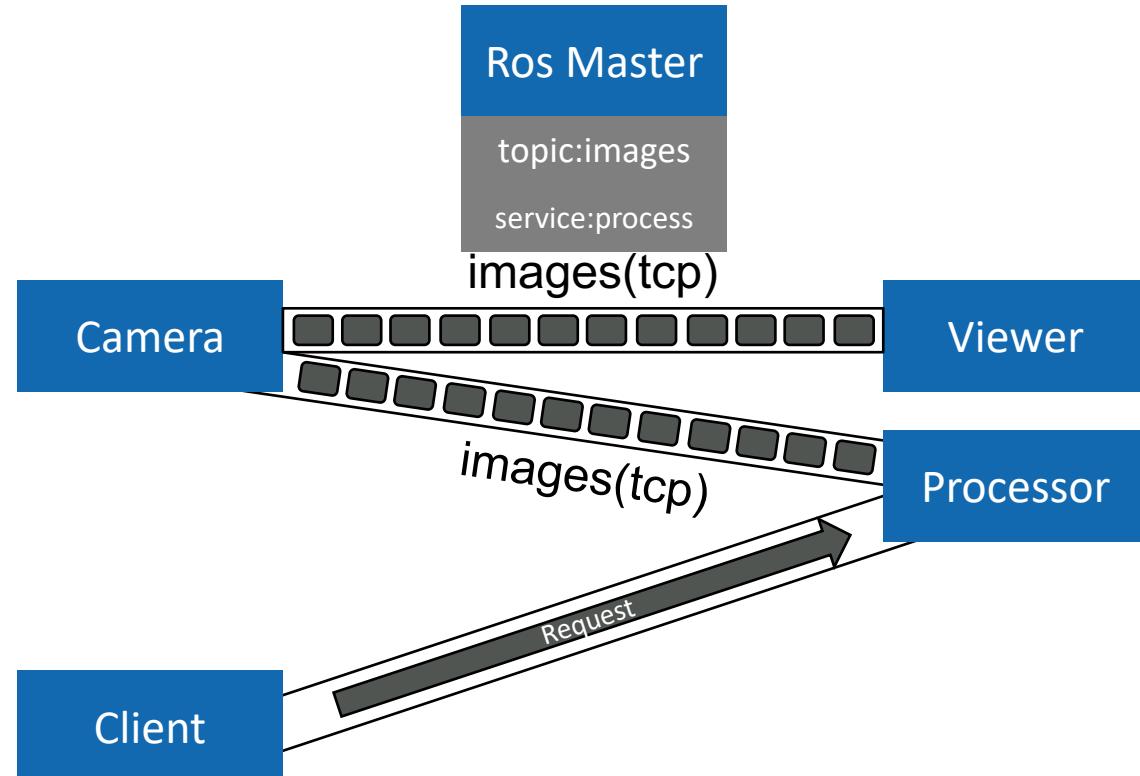
# ROS Services Example



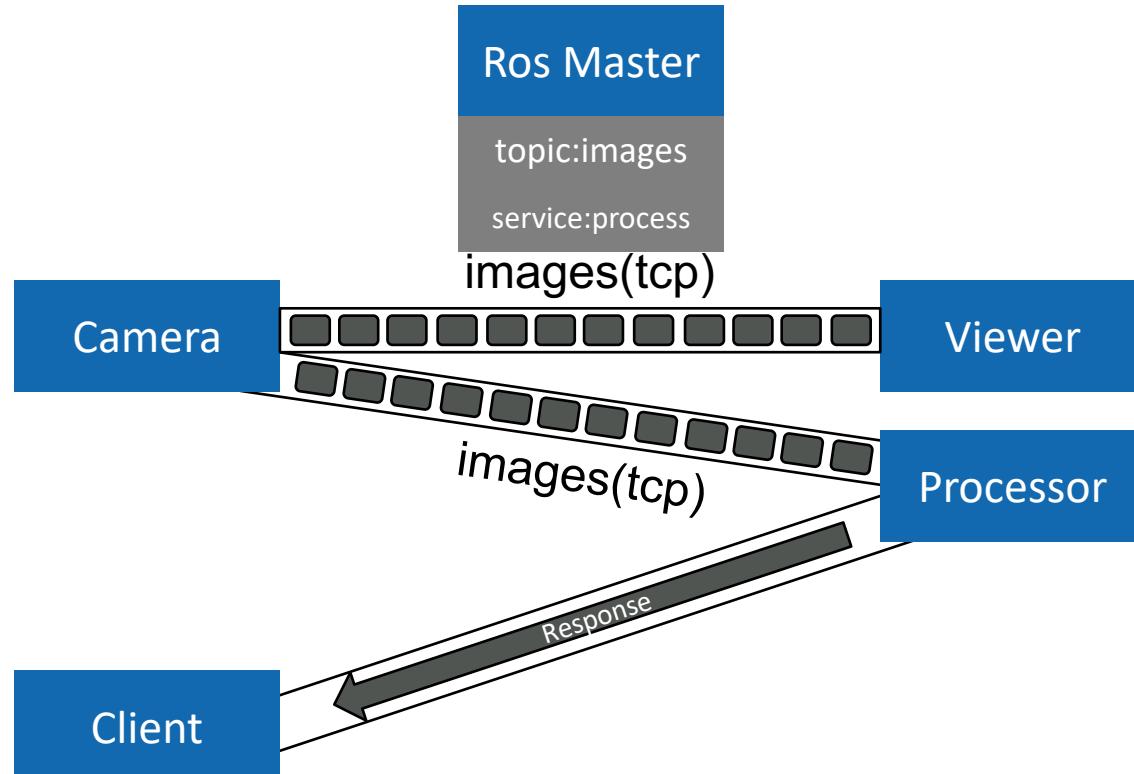
# ROS Services Example



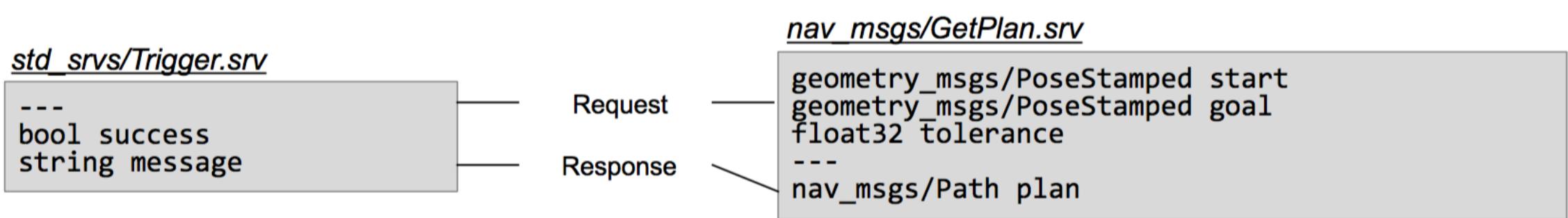
# ROS Services Example



# ROS Services Example

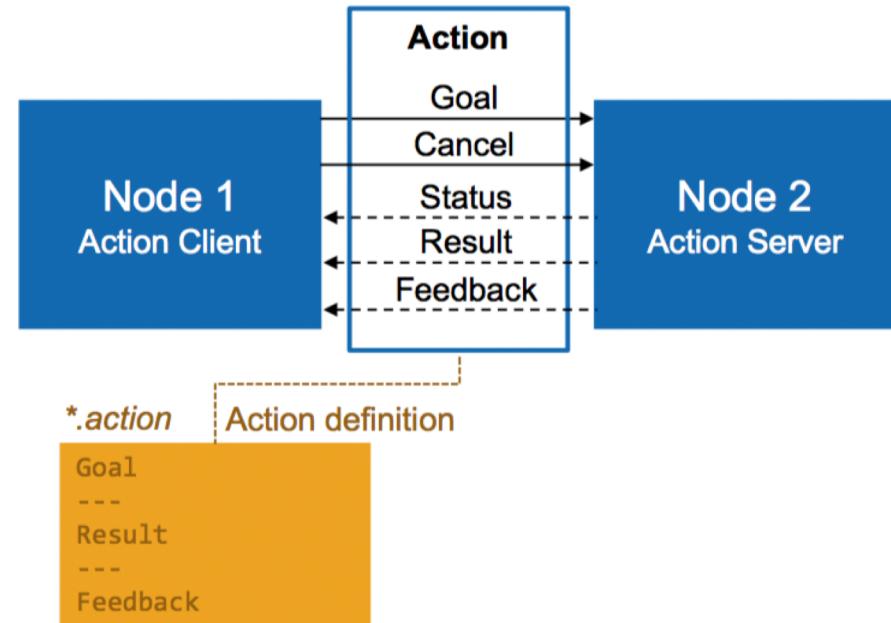


# ROS Service Example



# ROS Actions (actionlib)

- Similar to service calls, but provide possibility to
  - Cancel the task (preempt)
  - Receive feedback on the progress
- Best way to implement interfaces to time-extended, goal-oriented behaviors
- Similar in structure to services, action are defined in *\*.action* files
- Internally, actions are implemented with a set of topics



More info

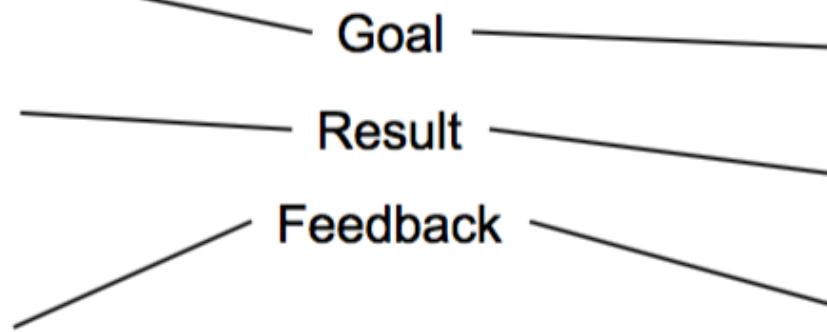
<http://wiki.ros.org/actionlib>

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

# ROS Actions Example

## Averaging.action

```
int32 samples
---
float32 mean
float32 std_dev
---
int32 sample
float32 data
float32 mean
float32 std_dev
```



## *FollowPath.action*

```
navigation_msgs/Path path
---
bool success
---
float32 remaining_distance
float32 initial_distance
```

- Nodes use the *parameter server* to store and retrieve parameters at runtime
- Best used for static data such as configuration parameters
- Parameters can be defined in launch files or separate YAML files

*config.yaml*

```
camera:  
  left:  
    name: left_camera  
    exposure: 1  
  right:  
    name: right_camera  
    exposure: 1.1
```

*package.launch*

```
<launch>  
  <node name="name" pkg="package" type="node_type">  
    <rosparam command="load"  
      file="$(find package)/config/config.yaml" />  
  </node>  
</launch>
```

More info

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

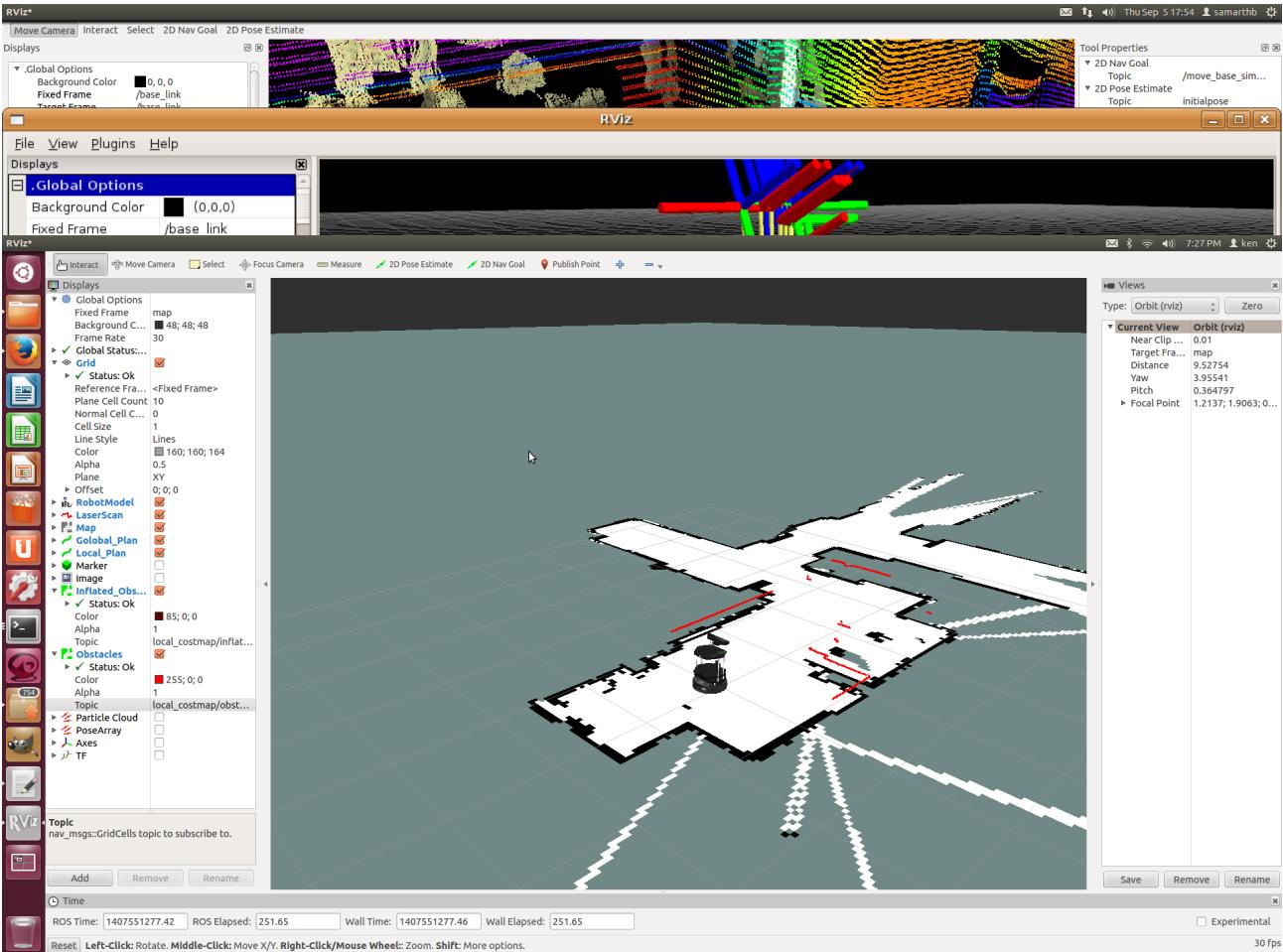
# Comparison

	Parameters	Dynamic Reconfigure	Topics	Services	Actions
Description	Global constant parameters	Local, changeable parameters	Continuous data streams	Blocking call for processing a request	Non-blocking, preemptable goal oriented tasks
Application	Constant settings	Tuning parameters	One-way continuous data flow	Short triggers or calculations	Task executions and robot actions
Examples	Topic names, camera settings, calibration data, robot setup	Controller parameters	Sensor data, robot state	Trigger change, request state, compute quantity	Navigation, grasping, motion execution

More Info

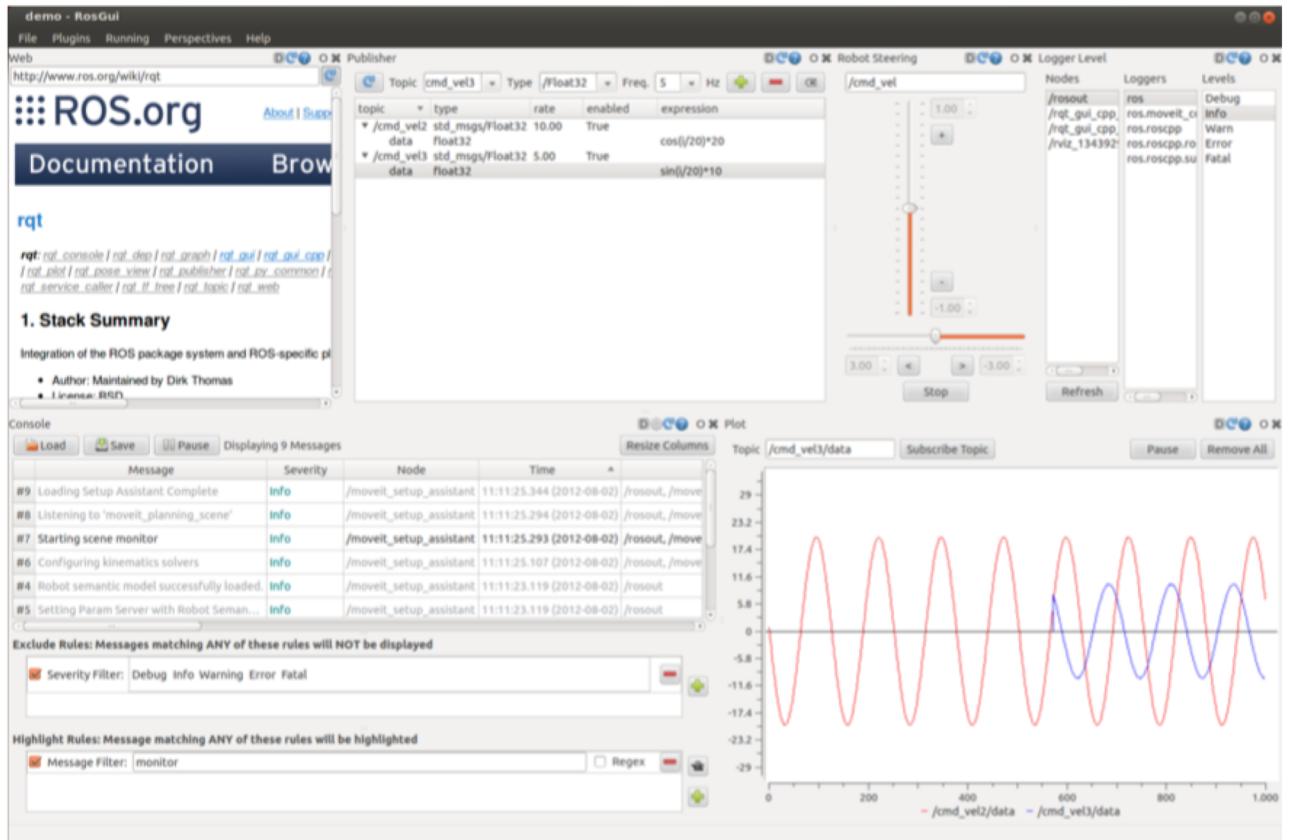
[http://wiki.ros.org/dynamic\\_reconfigure](http://wiki.ros.org/dynamic_reconfigure)

- 3D visualization tool for ROS
- Subscribes to topics and visualizes the message contents
- Different camera views (orthographic, top- down, etc.)
- Interactive tools to publish user information
- Save and load setup as RViz configuration
- Extensible with plugins



# rqt User Interface

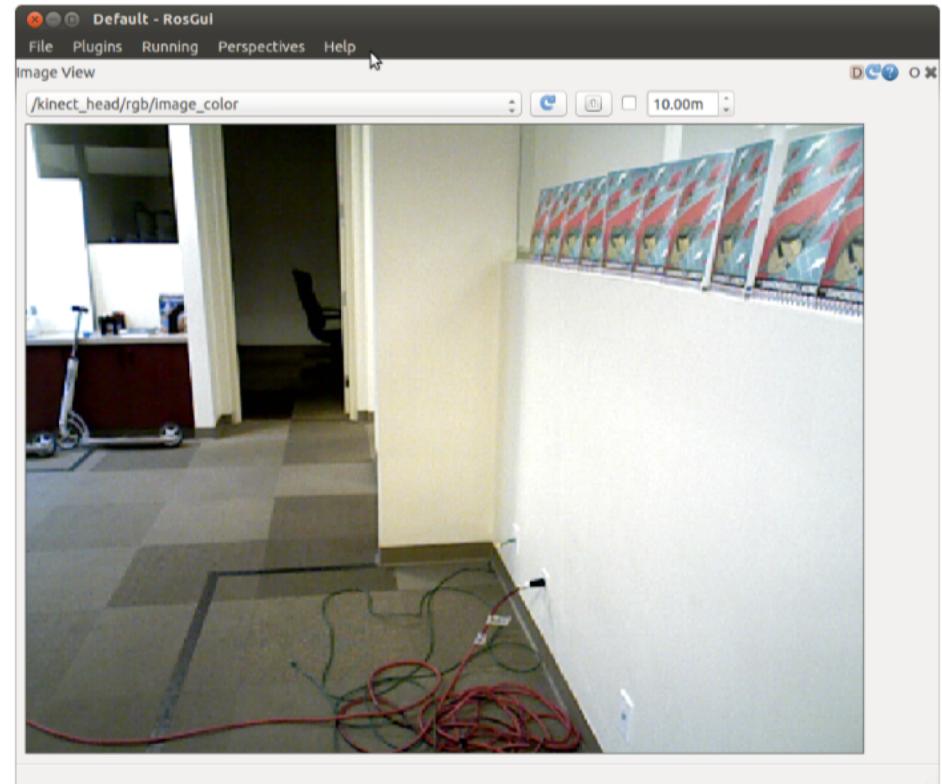
- User interface base on Qt
- Custom interfaces can be setup
- Lots of existing plugins
- Simple to write own plugins



More info

<http://wiki.ros.org/rqt/Plugins>

- User interface base on Qt
- Custom interfaces can be setup
- Lots of existing plugins exist
- Simple to write own plugins
- **rqt\_image\_view**  
Visualizing images

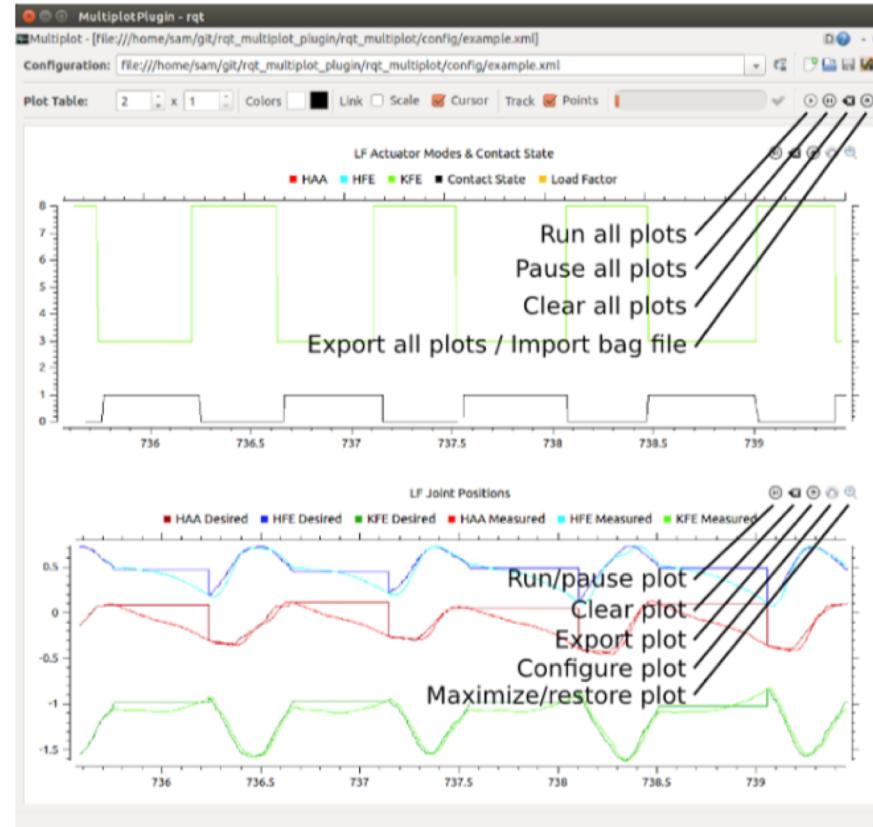


More info

[http://wiki.ros.org/rqt\\_image\\_view](http://wiki.ros.org/rqt_image_view)

# rqt User Interface

- User interface base on Qt
- Custom interfaces can be setup
- Lots of existing plugins exist
- Simple to write own plugins
- **rqt\_multiplot**  
Visualizing numeric values in 2D plots

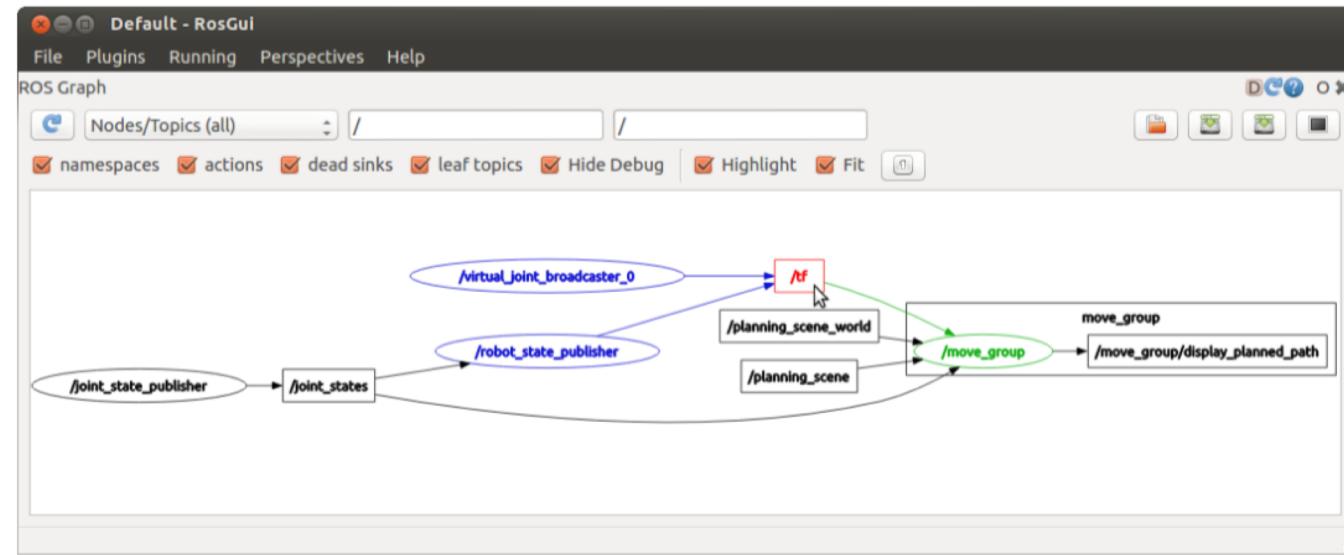


More info

[http://wiki.ros.org/rqt\\_multiplot](http://wiki.ros.org/rqt_multiplot)

# rqt User Interface

- User interface base on Qt
- Custom interfaces can be setup
- Lots of existing plugins exist
- Simple to write own plugins
- **rqt\_graph**  
Visualizing the ROS computation graph

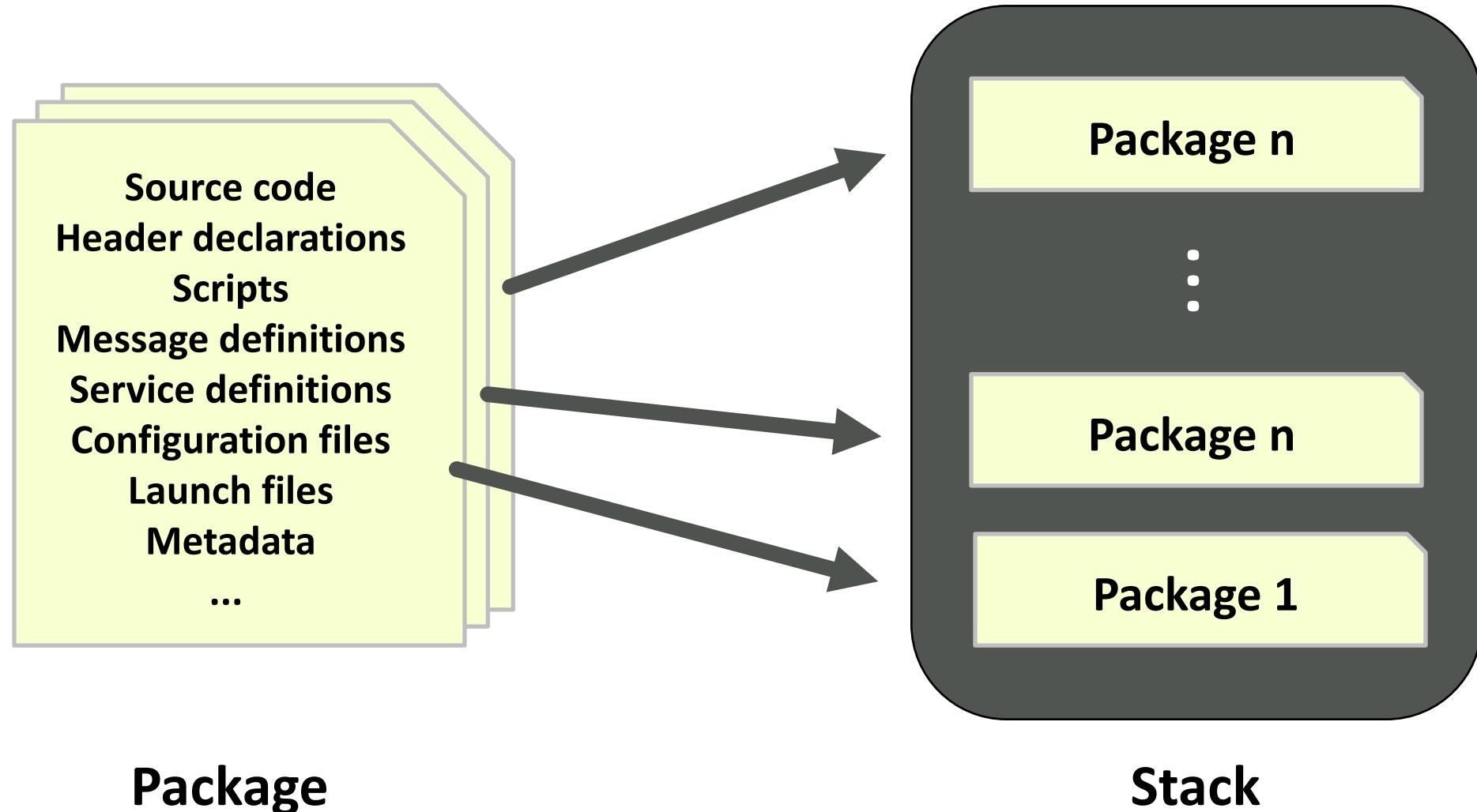


More info

[http://wiki.ros.org/rqt\\_graph](http://wiki.ros.org/rqt_graph)

- ROS code is grouped at two different levels:
  - *Packages*  
A named collection of software that is built and treated as an atomic dependency in the ROS build system.
  - *Stacks*  
A named collection of packages for distribution.

# ROS Stacks & Packages

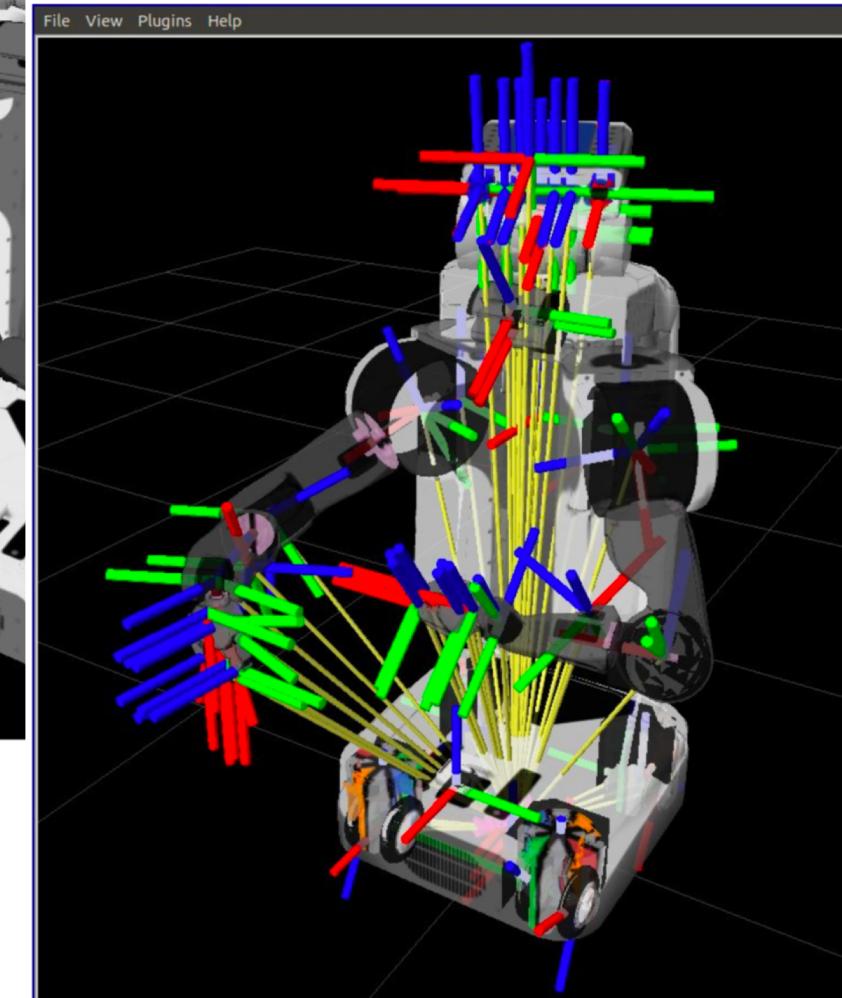
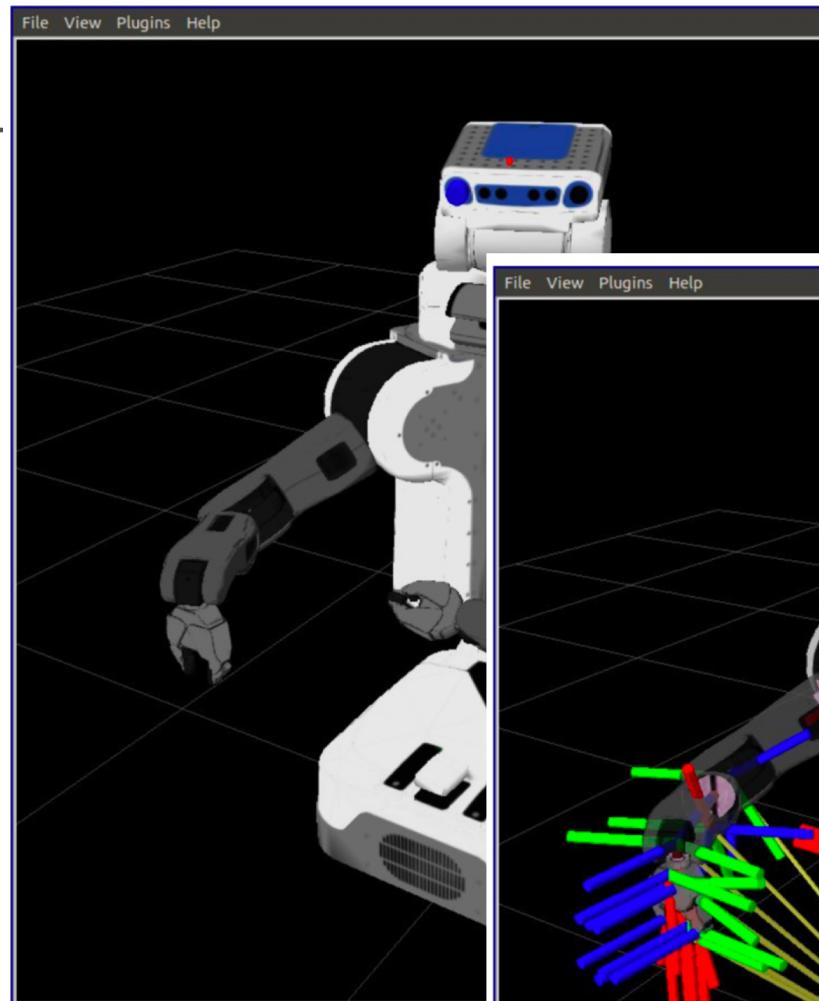


# Outlook: ROS Tutorials

- In the exercises we learn ...
  - how to **install & start ROS**
  - to know **ROS console tools**
  - to know the **catkin build system**
  - to create **own messages & topics**
  - to create and run **own nodes**
  - to create and run **own services**
  - to know **graphical ROS tools**

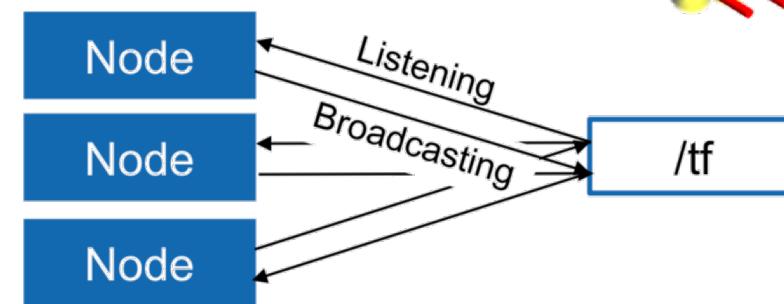
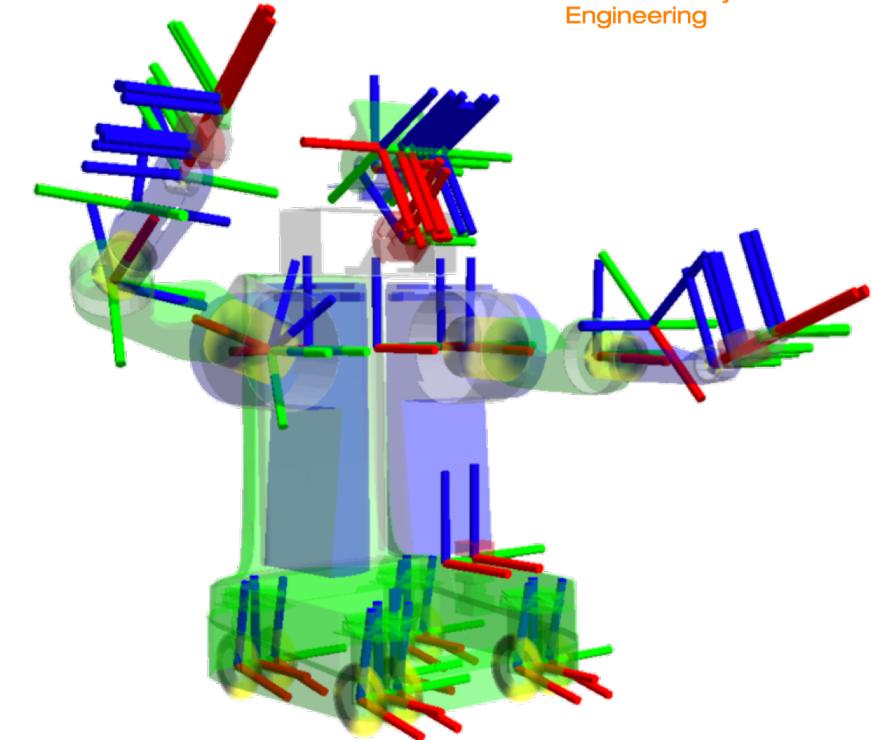
# Coordinate frames in ROS

- Robots consist of many *links*
- Every *link* describes its own *coordinate system*
- Sensor measurements are local to the corresponding link
- Links change their position over time



- Transforms are produced by different nodes:
  - Localization in map (AMCL, gmapping)
  - Odometry (base controller)
  - Joint motions (robot controllers and robot state publisher)
- tf2 is a decentralized coordinate frame tracking system:
  - many publishers, many subscribers
  - Standardized protocol for publishing transforms

- Maintains relationship between coordinate frames in a tree structure buffered in time
- Lets the user transform points, vectors, etc. between coordinate frames at desired time
- Implemented as publish/subscriber model on the topics `/tf` and `/tf_static`



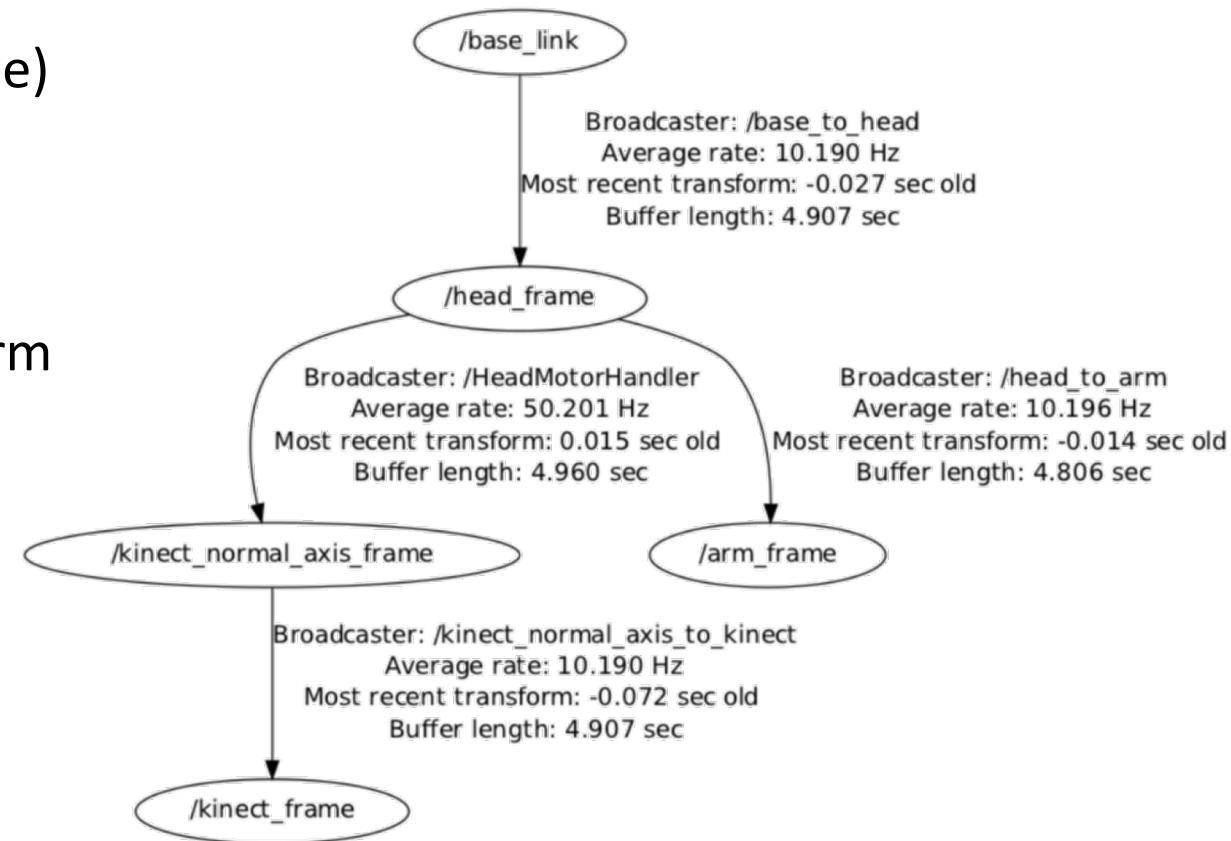
More info  
<http://wiki.ros.org/tf2>

# tf2 Transform Tree

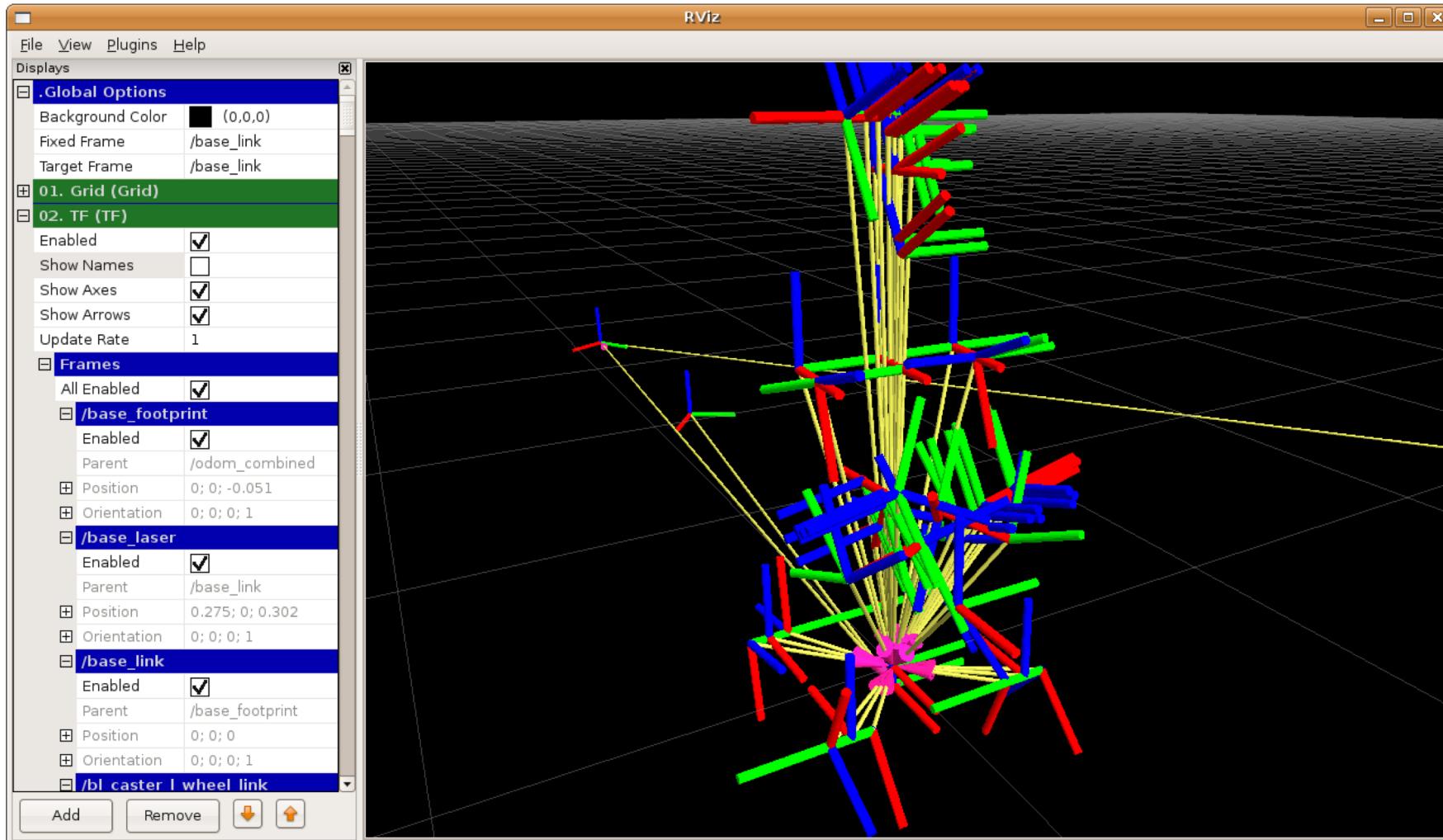
- Consists of frames (links) and the transforms between them.
- Each link is cached (10 secs default caching time)
- TF listeners use a buffer to listen to all broadcasted transforms
- Query for specific transforms from the transform tree

tf2\_msgs/TFMessage.msg

```
geometry_msgs/TransformStamped[] transforms
  std_msgs/Header header
    uint32 seqtime stamp
    string frame_id
    string child_frame_id
  geometry_msgs/Transform transform
    geometry_msgs/Vector3 translation
    geometry_msgs/Quaternion rotation
```



# tf2 Rviz Plugin



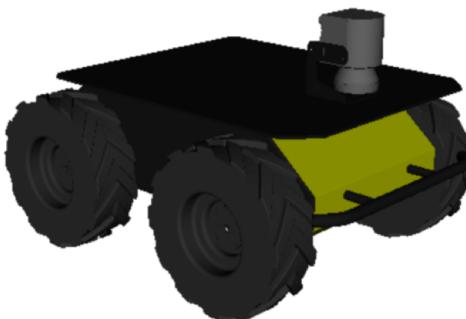
- **Transform** (between frames)
  - Vector3 for translation
  - Quaternion for rotation
- **Pose** (w.r.t. a frame)
  - Point for position
  - Quaternion for orientation
- **Stamped data types** (via ROS header)
  - TransformStamped, PoseStamped, PointStamped, ...
  - Header contains time stamp and parent frame name
  - TransformStamped includes child frame name

- Nodes that publish transforms
- Static transform publisher (command-line tool)
- Launch files
- URDF, joint states and robot state publisher
  - Make a robot description file (URDF) and load it on the parameter server
  - Implement a node that reads joint states and publishes them
  - Run the robot state publisher node

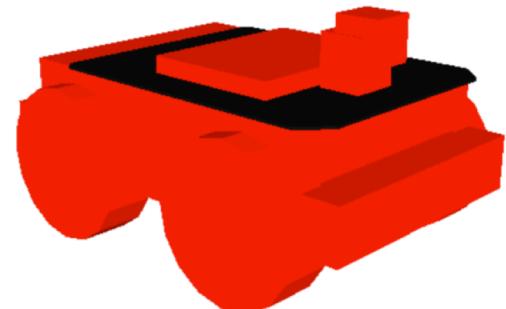
# Unified Robot Description Format (URDF)

- Defines an XML format for representing a robot model

- Kinematic and dynamic description
  - Visual representation
  - Collision model



Mesh for visuals



Primitives for collision

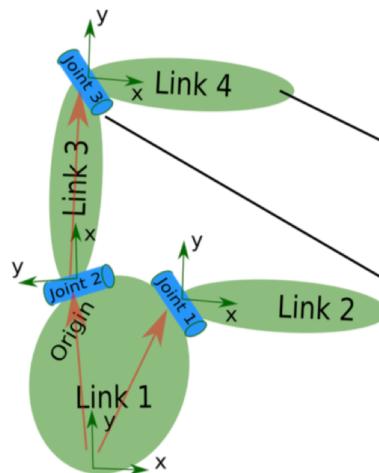
- URDF generation can be scripted with *XACRO (XML Macro)*

More Info

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

# Unified Robot Description Format (URDF)

- Description consists of a set of *link* elements and a set of *joint* elements
- Joints connect the links together



More info

<http://wiki.ros.org/urdf/XML/model>

robot.urdf

```
<robot name="robot">
  <link> ... </link>
  <link> ... </link>
  <link> ... </link>

  <joint> .... </joint>
  <joint> .... </joint>
  <joint> .... </joint>
</robot>
```

```
<link name="Link_name">
  <visual>
    <geometry>
      <mesh filename="mesh.dae"/>
    </geometry>
  </visual>
  <collision>
    <geometry>
      <cylinder length="0.6" radius="0.2"/>
    </geometry>
  </collision>
  <inertial>
    <mass value="10"/>
    <inertia ixx="0.4" ixy="0.0" .../>
  </inertial>
</link>
```

```
<joint name="joint_name" type="revolute">
  <axis xyz="0 0 1"/>
  <limit effort="1000.0" upper="0.548" ... />
  <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0.2 0.01 0"/>
  <parent link="parent_link_name"/>
  <child link="child_link_name"/>
</joint>
```

- URDF can be loaded using a launch file
- The robot description (URDF) is stored on the parameter server (typically) under `/robot_description`
- You can visualize the robot model in Rviz with the RobotModel plugin
- You can visualize the robot model in Rviz with the RobotModel plugin

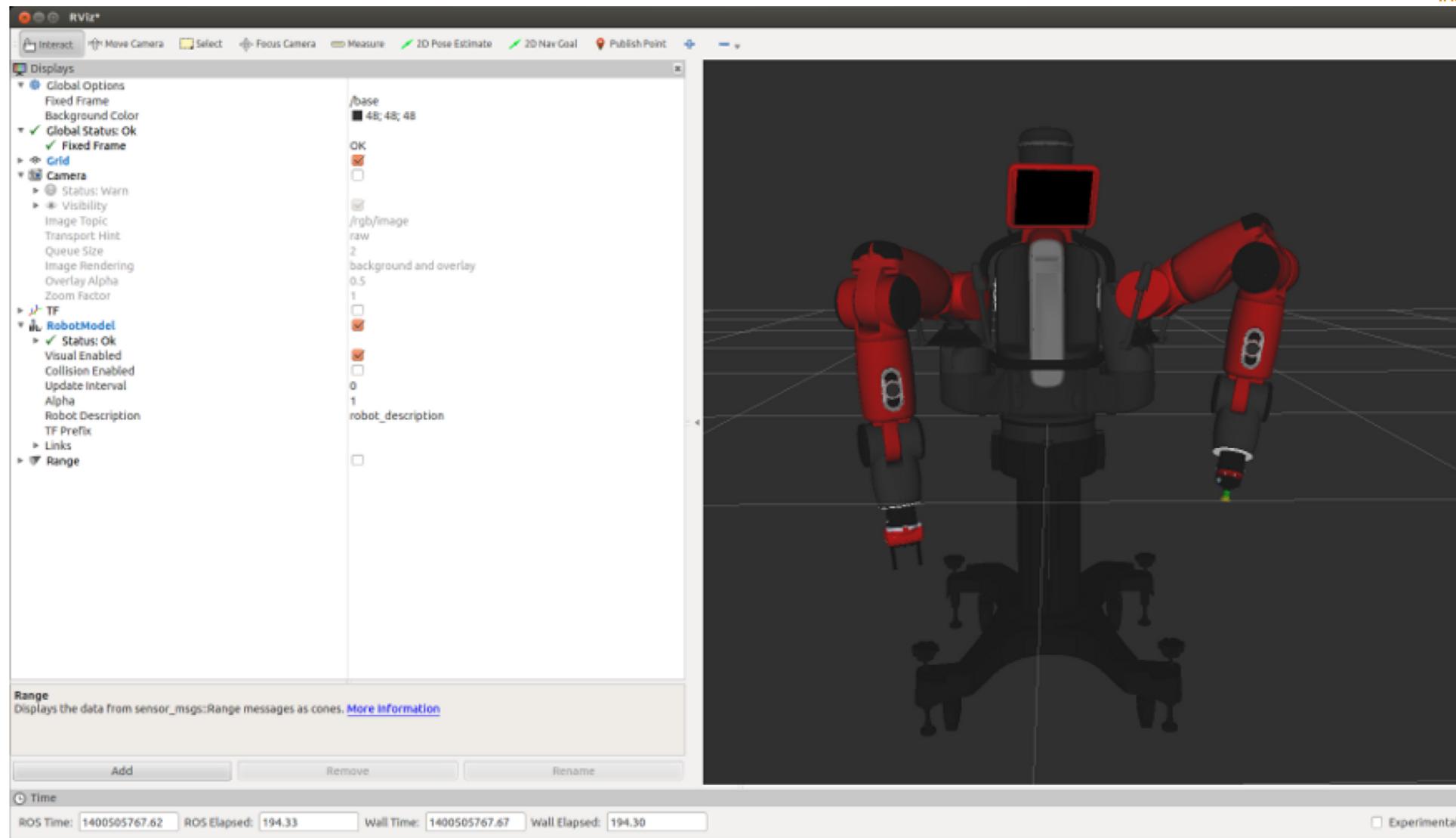
`husky_empty_world.launch`

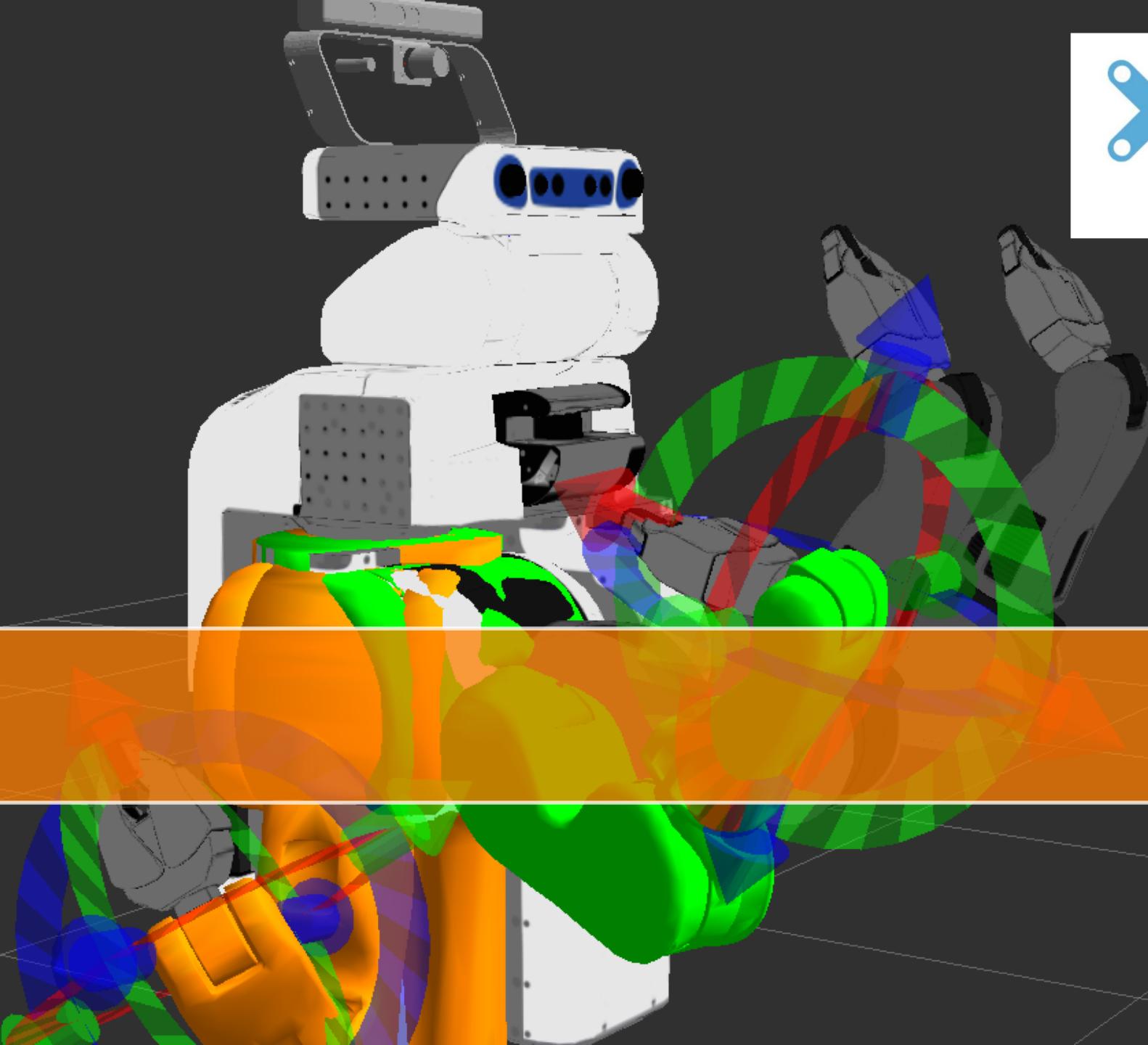
```
...
<include file="$(find husky_gazebo)/launch/spawn_husky.launch">
  <arg name="laser_enabled" value="$(arg laser_enabled)"/>
  <arg name="ur5_enabled" value="$(arg ur5_enabled)"/>
  <arg name="kinect_enabled" value="$(arg kinect_enabled)"/>
</include>
...
```

`spawn_husky.launch`

```
...
<param name="robot_description" command="$(find xacro)/xacro.py
  '$(arg husky_gazebo_description)'
    laser_enabled:=$(arg laser_enabled)
    ur5_enabled:=$(arg ur5_enabled)
    kinect_enabled:=$(arg kinect_enabled)" />
...
```

# URDF in ROS





**MoveIt!**

# MoveIt! in a nutshell

- Technical Capabilities
  - Motion Planning with Kinematic Constraints
  - Fast and flexible collision checking
  - Integrated Kinematics
  - Integrated Perception for Environment Representation
  - Standardised Interfaces to Robot Controllers
  - Execution and Monitoring of Robot Trajectories
- MoveIt! includes a variety of motion planners:
  - Sampling-based motion planners
  - Search-based motion planners
  - Optimization-based motion planners (CHOMP)



# MoveIt! in a nutshell



Institute for  
Software & Systems  
Engineering



- Movel! allows to specify the following kinematic constraints:
  - **Position constraints:** Restrict the position of a link to be within a region of space
  - **Orientation constraints:** Restrict the orientation of a link to be within specified RPY limits
  - **Visibility constraints:** Restrict a point on a link to be within the visibility cone for a sensor
  - **Joint constraints:** Restrict a joint to be between two values
  - **User-specified constraints:** specify your own constraints with a user-defined callback.
- Movel! uses Flexible Collision Library (FCL) which supports:
  - Meshes
  - Primitive shapes (boxes, cylinders, cones)
  - Octomap (3D sensor information)

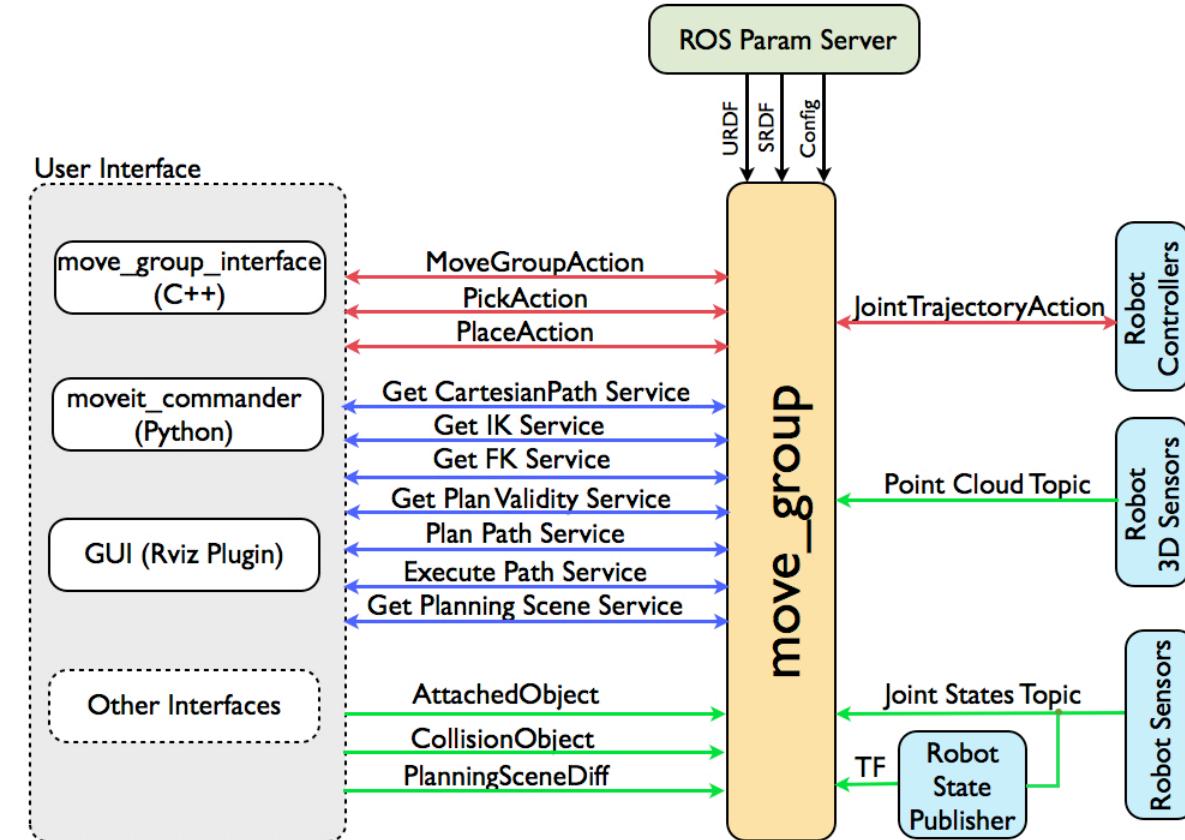
# Movelt! System Architecture

- **User Interface**

- **C++**: using the `move_group_interface` package that provides an interface to `move_group`
- **Python**: using the `moveit_commander` package
- **GUI**: using the Motion Planning plugin to Rviz

- **Configuration**

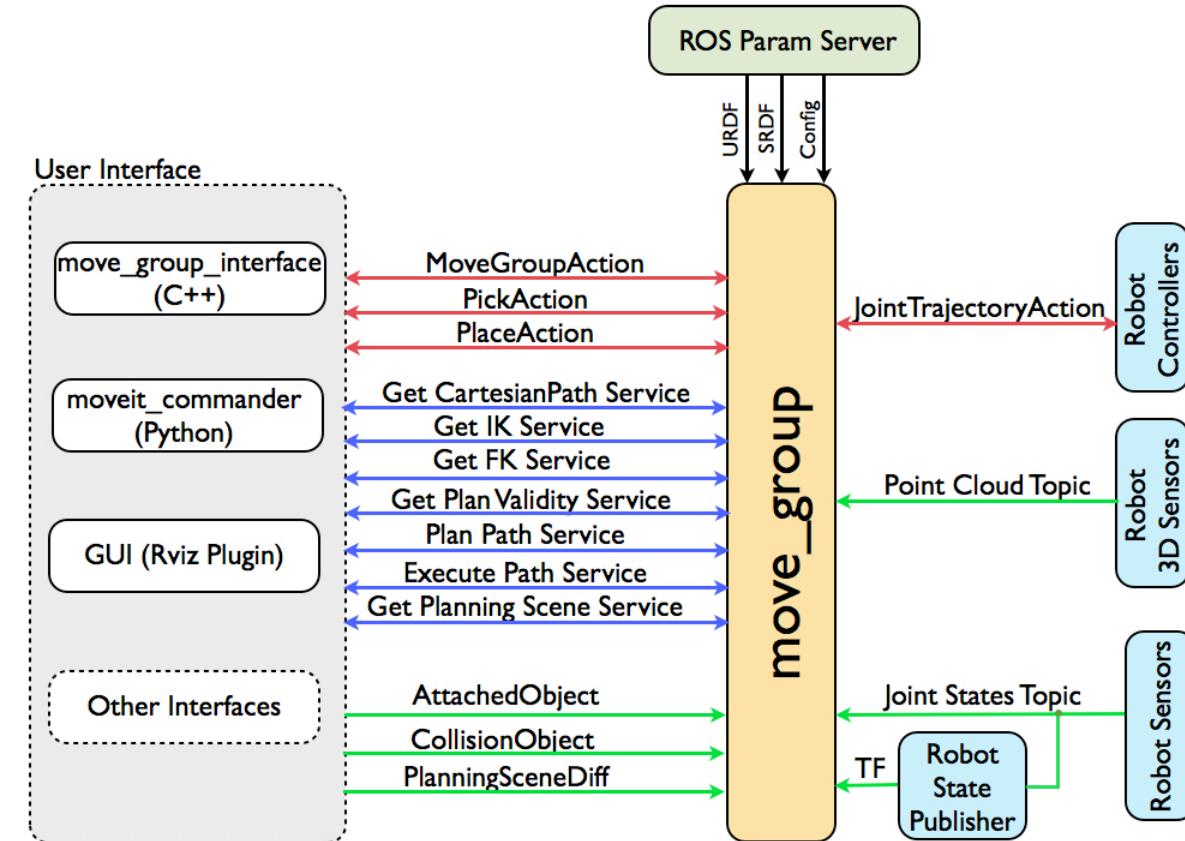
- **URDF**: `move_group` looks for `robot_description` on the ROS param server to get the URDF.
- **SRDF**: `move_group` looks for the `robot_description_semantic` on the ROS param server to get the SRDF.
- **Movelt! Configuration**: `move_group` will look on the ROS param server for other configuration including joint limits, kinematics, motion planning, perception and other information.
- SRDF and config files are automatically generated by the Movelt! setup assistant.



# Movelt! System Architecture

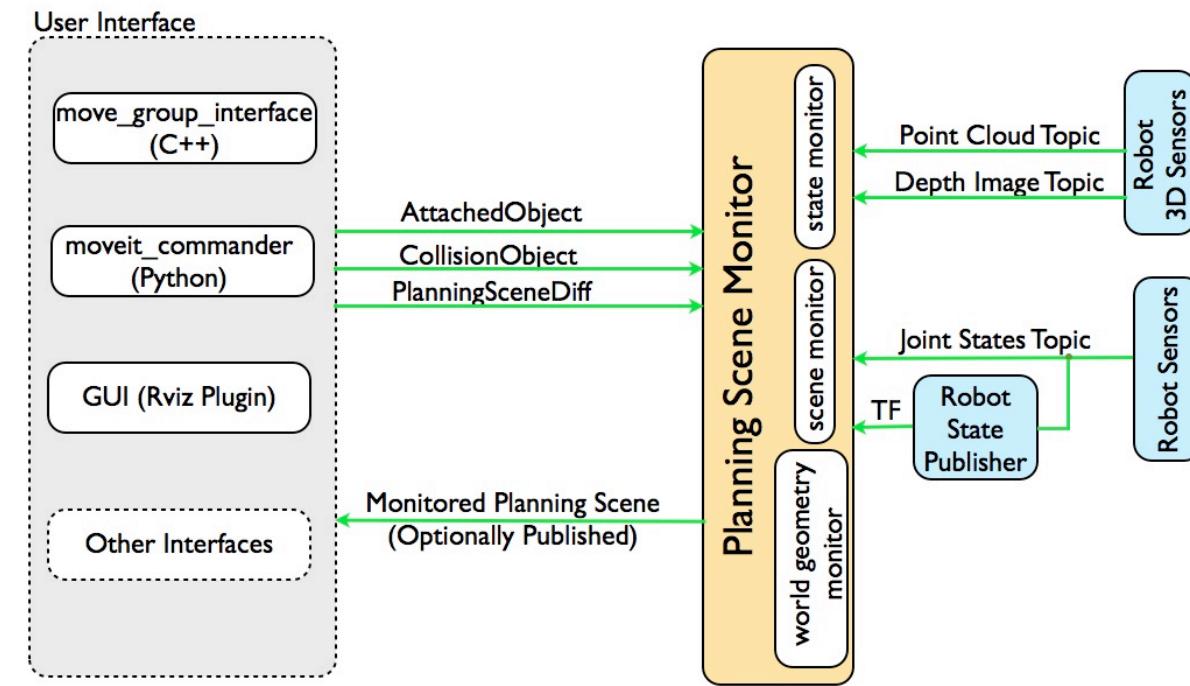
`move_group` communicates via topics and actions with the robot to get current state information (joints positions, etc.), to get point clouds and other sensor data and to control the robot.

- **Joint State Information:** `move_group` listens on the `/joint_states` topic for determining the current state information - i.e. determining where each joint of the robot is.
- **Transform Information:** `move_group` monitors transform information using the ROS TF library. This allows the node to get global information about the robot's pose (among other things).
- **Controller Interface:** `move_group` talks to the controllers on the robot using the standard `FollowJointTrajectoryAction` interface.
- **Planning Scene:** `move_group` uses the Planning Scene Monitor to maintain a *planning scene*, which is a representation of the world and the current state of the robot.



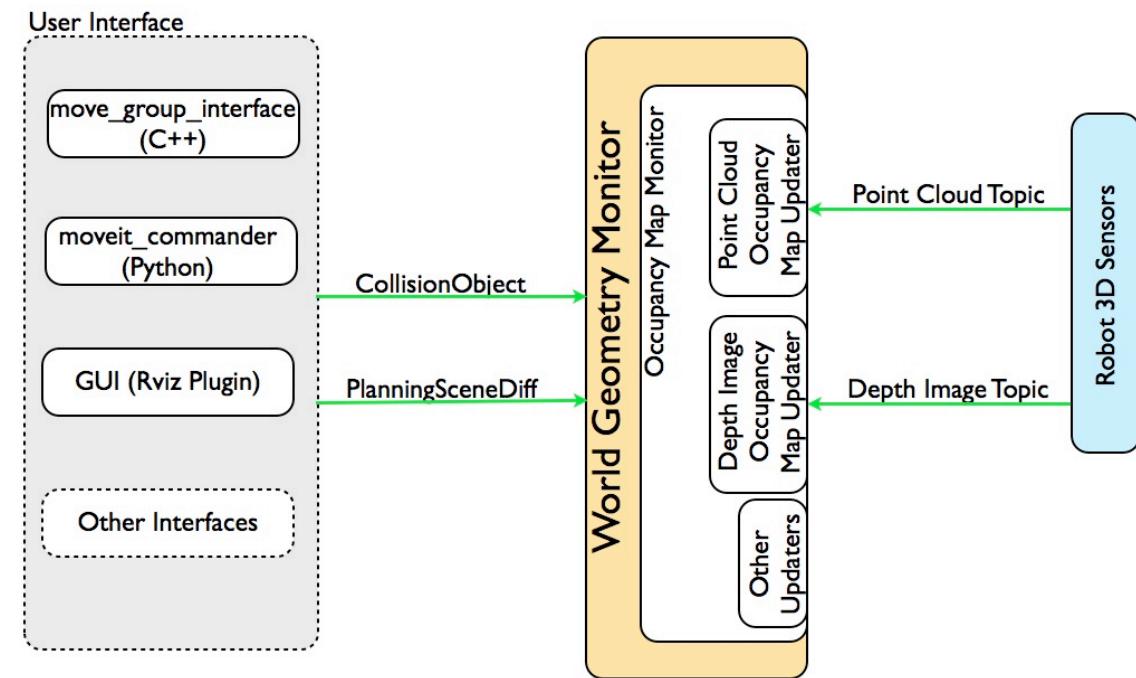
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- A *planning scene* is used to represent the world around the robot and also stores the state of the robot itself.
- It is maintained by the **Planning Scene Monitor** inside the *move\_group* node.
- The planning scene monitor listens to:
  - **State Information:** on the *joint\_states* topic
  - **Sensor Information:** using the *world geometry monitor*
  - **World geometry information:** from user input on the *planning\_scene* topic (as a planning scene diff)



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- **World Geometry Monitor** builds a 3D representation of the environment around the robot with information on the *planning\_scene* topic for adding object information.
- 3D perception is handled by the **Occupancy Map Monitor** which uses a plugin architecture to handle different kinds of sensors:
  - **Point clouds** are handled by the *point cloud occupancy map updater* plugin
  - **Depth images** are handled by the *depth image occupancy map updater* plugin
- The Occupancy Map Monitor uses an *Octomap* to maintain the occupancy map of the environment. The *Octomap* can directly be passed into FCL, the collision checking library that Movelt! uses.
- The **Depth Image Occupancy Map Updater** includes its own *self-filter*, i.e. it will remove visible parts of the robot from the depth map.



# MoveIt! Examples



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