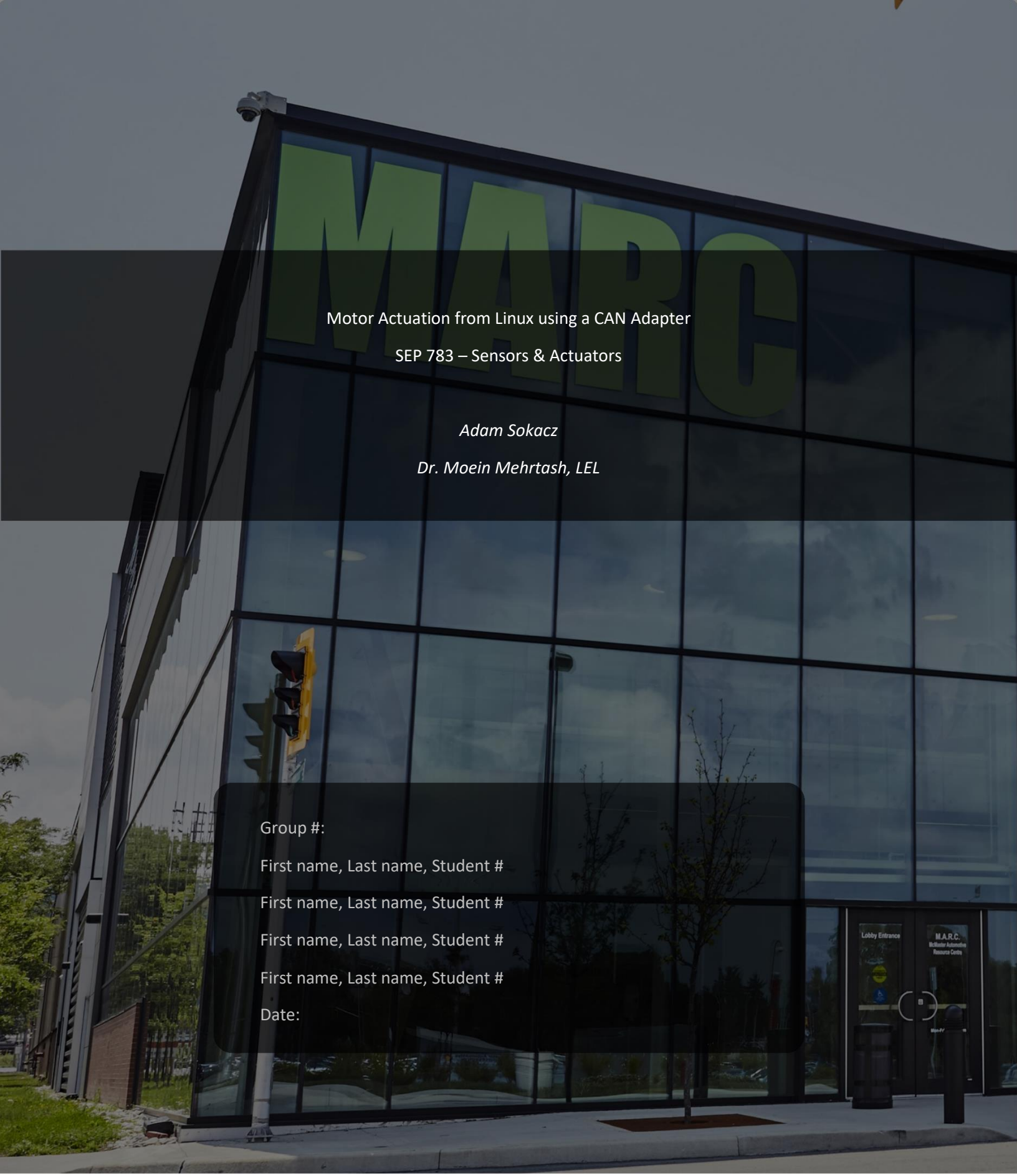

Motor Actuation from Linux using a CAN Adapter

SEP 783 – Sensors & Actuators

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Date:

W BOOTH SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING PRACTICE AND TECHNOLOGY

McMaster-Mohawk Bachelor of Technology Partnership

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mohawk

Objective

Learn about setting up a CAN interface and communicating to devices on a CAN bus using Linux.

Table of Contents

Pre-Lab Questions

Post-Lab Questions

Q1- What is *CAN*? Briefly describe how it works.

(Suggested: Short Paragraph)

Q2 - What is *Git*? How can Git be used to *clone* remote repositories?

(Suggested: Short Paragraph)

Q3 - What is *differential drive* in the context of robotics? Briefly describe how it functions in controlling direction and speed.

(Suggested: Short Paragraph)

Q4 - Which *2 files* must be *sourced* in order for ROS to be able to access the *version* you want to use and the *workspace* you want to use.

(Suggested: 2 sentences)

Q5 - The MacBot uses a *Jetson Nano* to control itself. Compare and contrast a Jetson Nano to a Raspberry Pi 4 B+.

(Suggested: Table)

Q6 - Define the word *odometry* in the context of robotics.

(Suggested: Short Paragraph)

Q7 - In your own words, compare and contrast *global* vs *local* path planning algorithms.

(Suggested: Short Paragraph)

Q8 - Generate an *RQT graph* for the MacBot performing SLAM. Take a screenshot and include it with your report.

(Suggested: Screenshot)

Q9 - List 3 *industry applications* of *SLAM*. What advantages does SLAM have over GPS?

(Suggested: Short Paragraph)

Q11 – Write a brief LinkedIn post about key concepts that were learned in this lab.

(Suggested: Short Paragraph)

Optional Assignment

Follow the following tutorial to install, build, and run TurtleSim. Take a screenshot to demonstrate that you can control it using your keyboard.

WiKi: http://wiki.ros.org/turtlesim

Feedback

Q1 - What would you rate the difficulty of this lab?

(1 = easy, 5 = difficult)

1 **2** **3** **4** **5**

Comments about the difficulty of the lab:

Q2 - Did you have enough time to complete the lab within the designated lab time?

YES **NO**

Q3 - How easy were the lab instructions to understand?

(1 = easy, 5 = unclear)

1 **2** **3** **4** **5**

List any unclear steps:

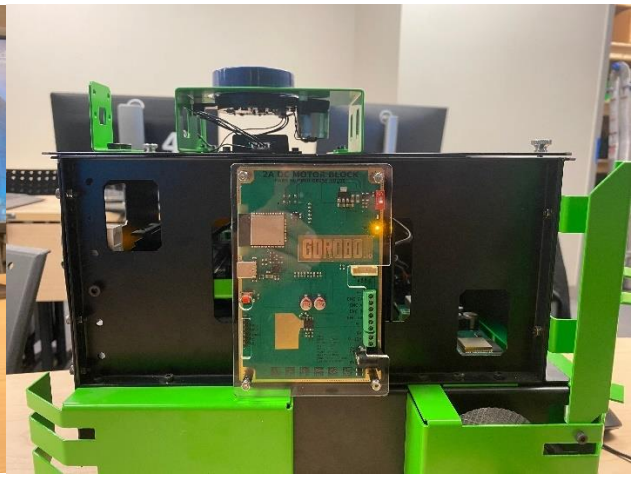
Q4 - Could you see yourself using the skills learned in this lab to tackle future engineering challenges?

(1 = no, 5 = yes)

1 **2** **3** **4** **5**

Motor Driver Setup

For this lab, 2 motor controller modules will be needed. One motor driver unit will be magnetically attached to the left-side of the MacBot and the other will be attached to the right-side of the MacBot.



Each of these motor controller modules requires 2 cables to be connected to the rear end of each module. The 6-pin connector is the encoder cable and carries rotor orientation data to the embedded ESP32 on the motor controller unit. The second connecter is power from the power distribution board inside the MacBot.

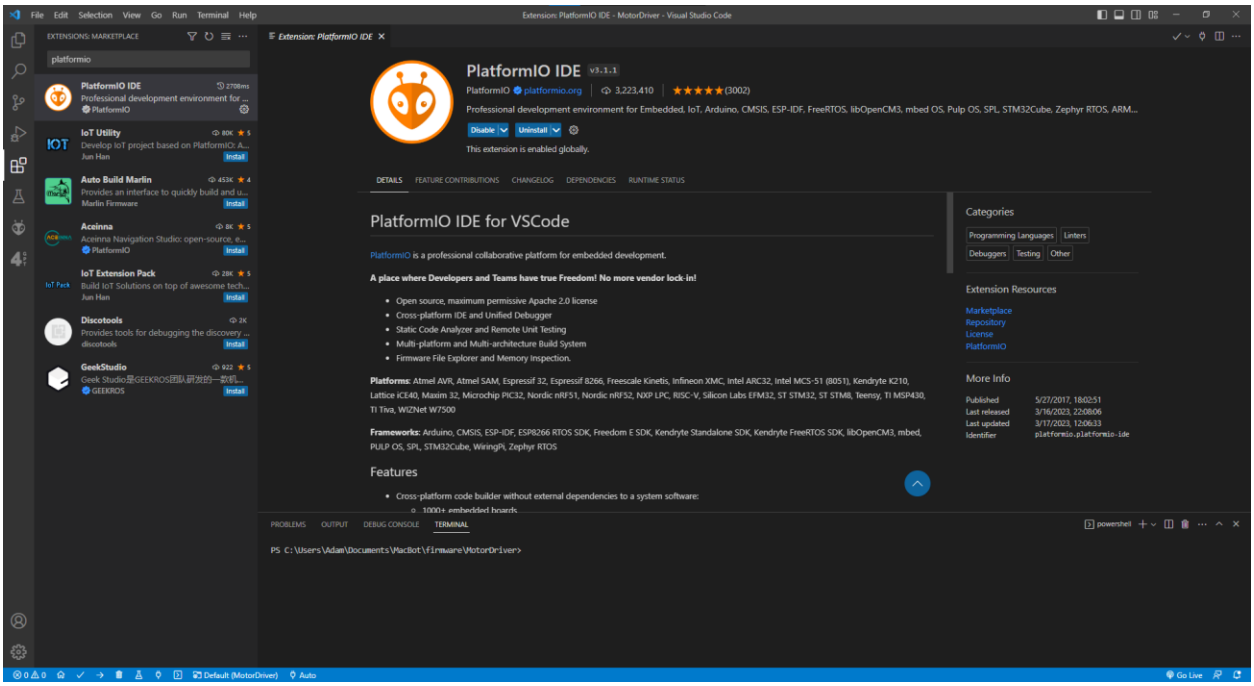
When the MacBot is powered OFF, motor controller firmware can be loaded onto the ESP32 on each motor controller module using a USB-C cable.

The firmware is located in the **firmware/MotorDriver** directory in the project repository.

https://github.com/adamsokacz/macbot/tree/main/firmware/MotorDriver

The development environment used to build and upload the motor driver is called PlatformIO. PlatformIO, abbreviated as PIO, is a cross-platform multi-framework IDE for VSCode that can be installed through the Extension Manager tab.

https://platformio.org/



Each device on a CAN network must have a unique device ID, so that it can be independently addressed. This ID is represented as an integer number and is set when uploading the motor driver code to the motor controller module. It can be found on **line 156** in the **setup method** of the **main.cpp** file.

```
main.cpp
src > main.cpp > Task2code(void *)
154  void setup()
155  {
156    myLink.init(250E3, 5); // <<<<<<<<========   CHANGE THIS NUMBER FOR DIFFERENT NODES
157    myLink.setBroadcastRate(100);
158    Serial.begin(115200);
159
160    /*Create a half resolution quadrature encoder using the internal counter*/
161    encoder.attachHalfQuad(ENCA, ENCB);
162    encoder.clearCount();
163
164    /* setup the pins for the motor control */
165    pinMode(PMODE, OUTPUT);
166
167    ledcSetup(0, 10000, 8);
168    ledcSetup(1, 10000, 8);
169    ledcAttachPin(PH1, 0);
170    ledcAttachPin(PH2, 1);
```

To reduce confusion, the **left** motor controller module will be **device #4** and the **right** motor controller module will be **device #5**. The point-of-reference is facing the front of the MacBot.

LEFT (4) < -- > RIGHT (5)

To upload each driver code, click on the verify (✅) and upload (➡️) buttons on the bottom ribbon of the PlatformIO IDE. Ports will automatically be scanned for recognized development boards.

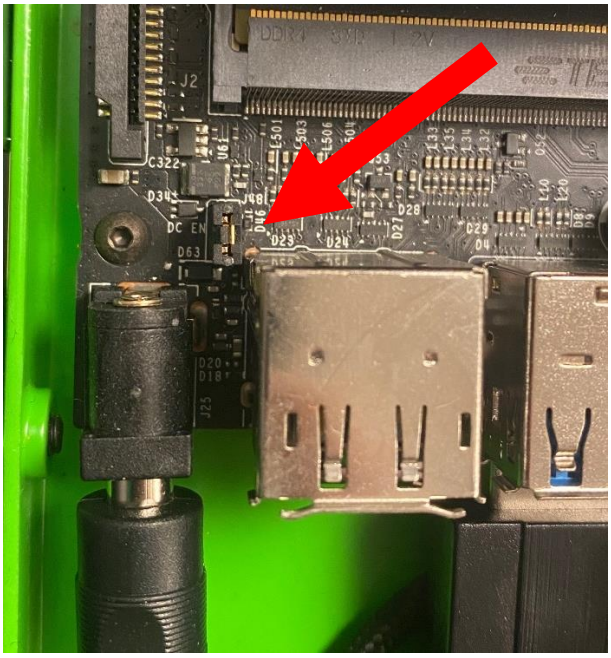
Powering On the MacBot

Before proceeding, I suggest that each group elevate the MacBot off the work space by 2+ cm to ensure that each motor has the freedom to rotate unexpectedly.

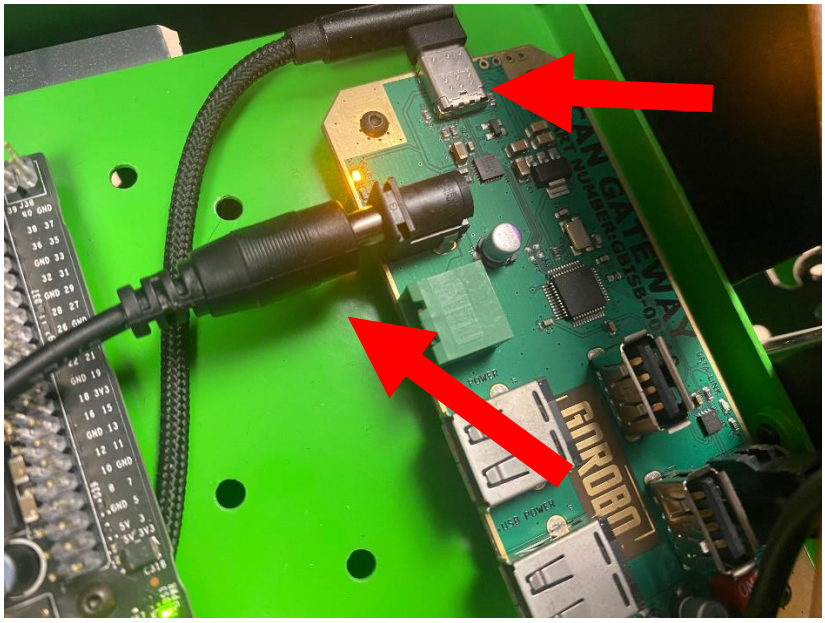
Turn the MacBot ON. It is preferred to operate on battery power as the power distribution board will have the ability to deliver more current to each motor, however a direct-to-wall connection will also work.

To use battery mode, ensure the following prerequisite steps have been taken.

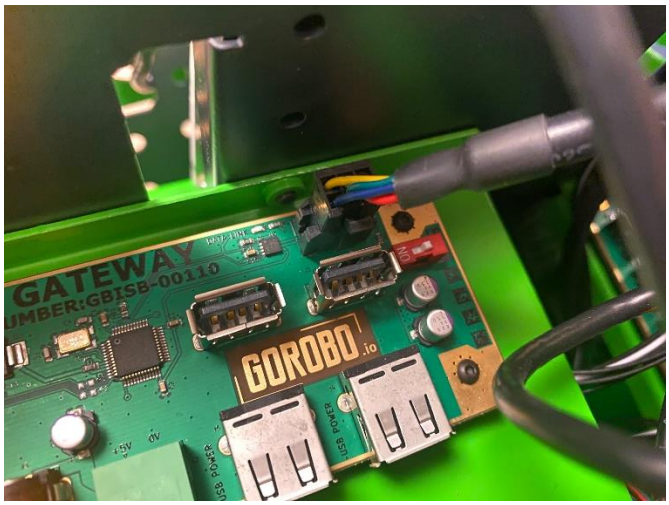
The power input selection jumper should connect the two exposed pins, setting it from MicroUSB 5 W to barrel connector MAXN mode.

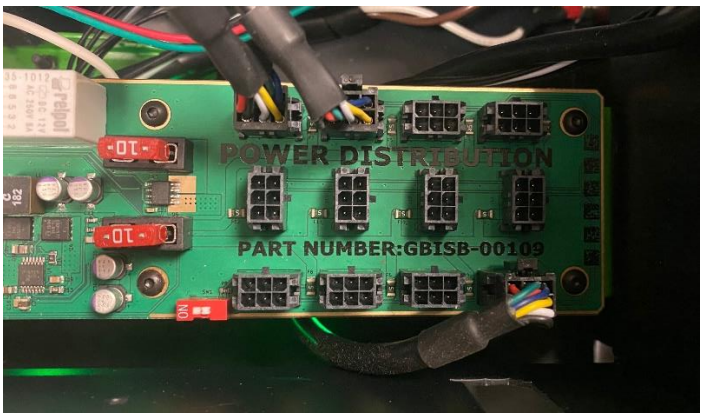


A barrel connector should be used to connect the USB-to-CAN module with the Jetson Nano development board. Ensure the USB-to-CAN module is also connected to one of the Jetson Nano's USB ports also, using the provided USB to USB-C cable.



Also, ensure that the USB-to-CAN board is receiving power from the power distribution board using a 6-pin connector, and that the appropriate 7.5 to 10 A breakers are used.





The power distribution board firmware must be downloaded onto the embedded ESP32 device on the board. It can be found in the **firmware/DistributionBoard** directory of the MacBot repository.

https://github.com/adamsokacz/macbot/tree/main/firmware/DistributionBoard

The firmware is required because it must toggle a normally-open power relay on-boot to allow connected devices to receive power. You will hear a click when this happens.

Click the battery power button to turn on the MacBot. You should audibly and visually see indicators power up on the MacBot, as well as the LiDAR begin to spin.

After 1 minute, attempt to connect to the MacBot using the instructions found in the project documentation:

https://adam-36.gitbook.io/macbot/connect

Installing CAN Dependencies

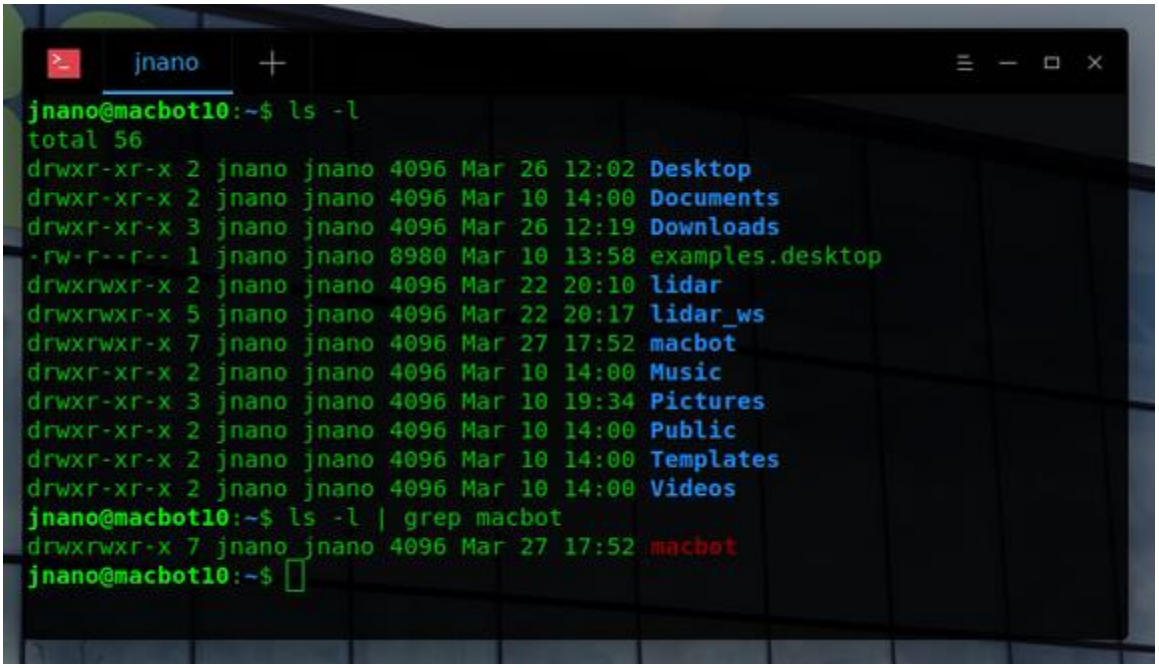
Once the MacBot has been booted and you have successfully connected to the unit, verify that the project files have already been transferred to your user directory.

cd ~

ls -l

If there are many files in this directory, use the GREP command to search file names in this directory.

ls -l | grep macbot



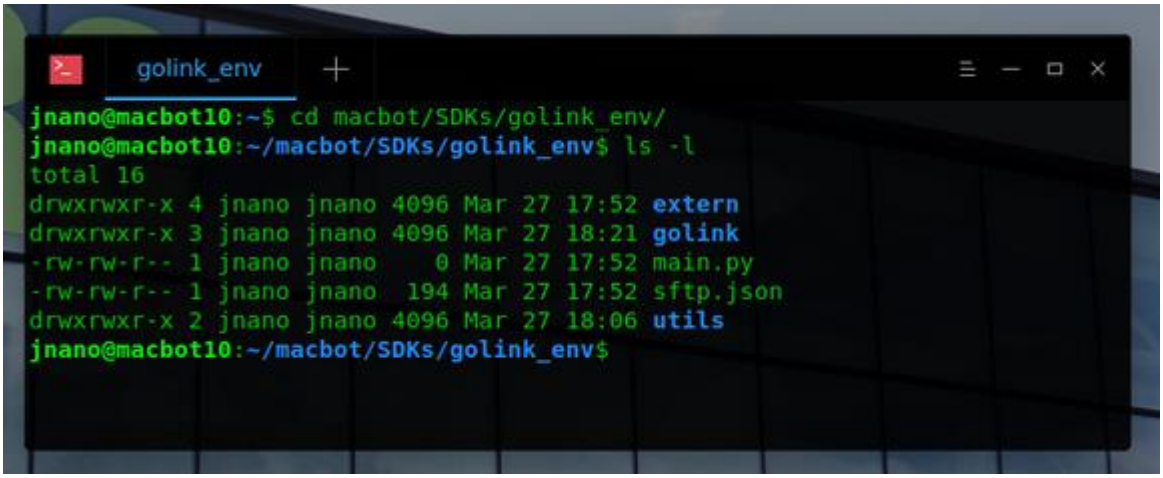
Navigate into the SDK directory inside the macbot project folder and find the **golink_env** folder.

cd macbot

cd SDK

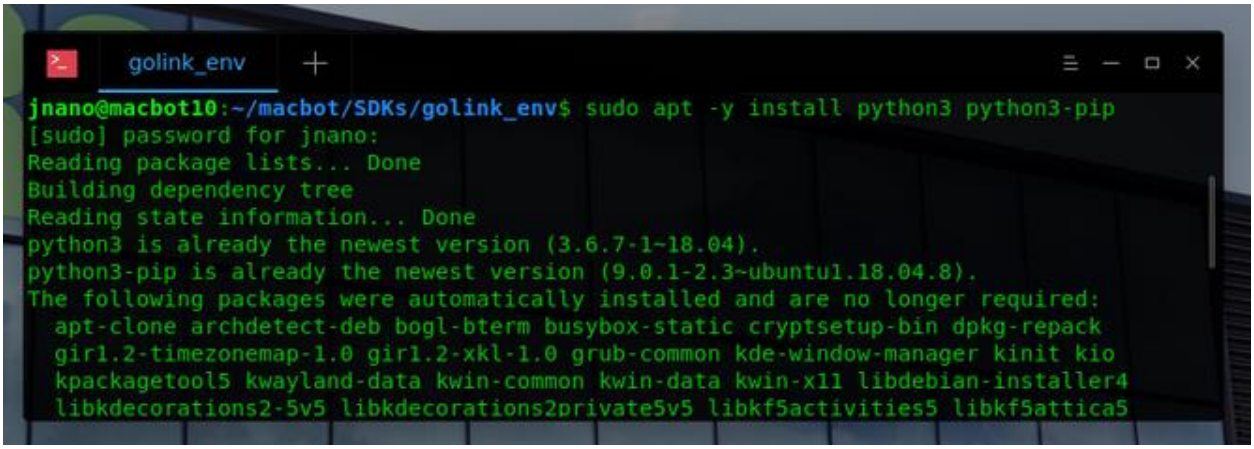
cd golink_env

ls -l

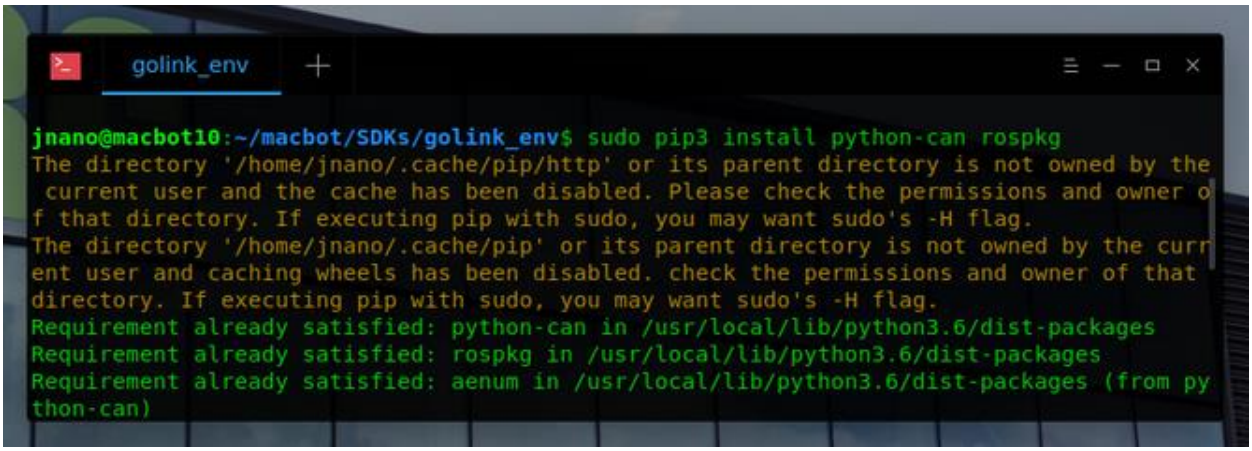


Before using this library, we must ensure that the Python prerequisite packages are installed on our system.

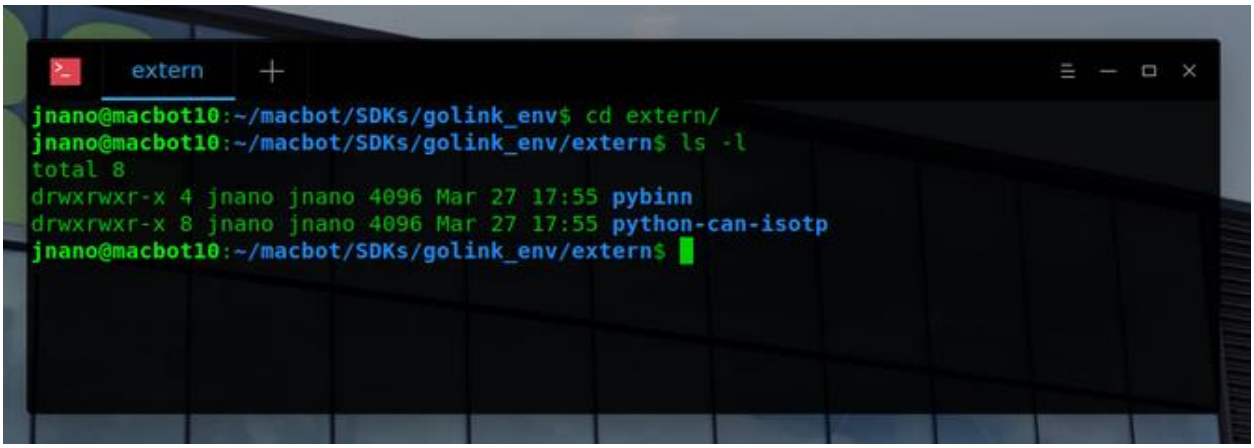
sudo apt -y install python3 python3-pip



sudo pip3 install python-can rospkg



Next, there are a few Python packages that must be installed manually. Navigate to the **extern/** directory. This directory typically contains external dependencies to a project.

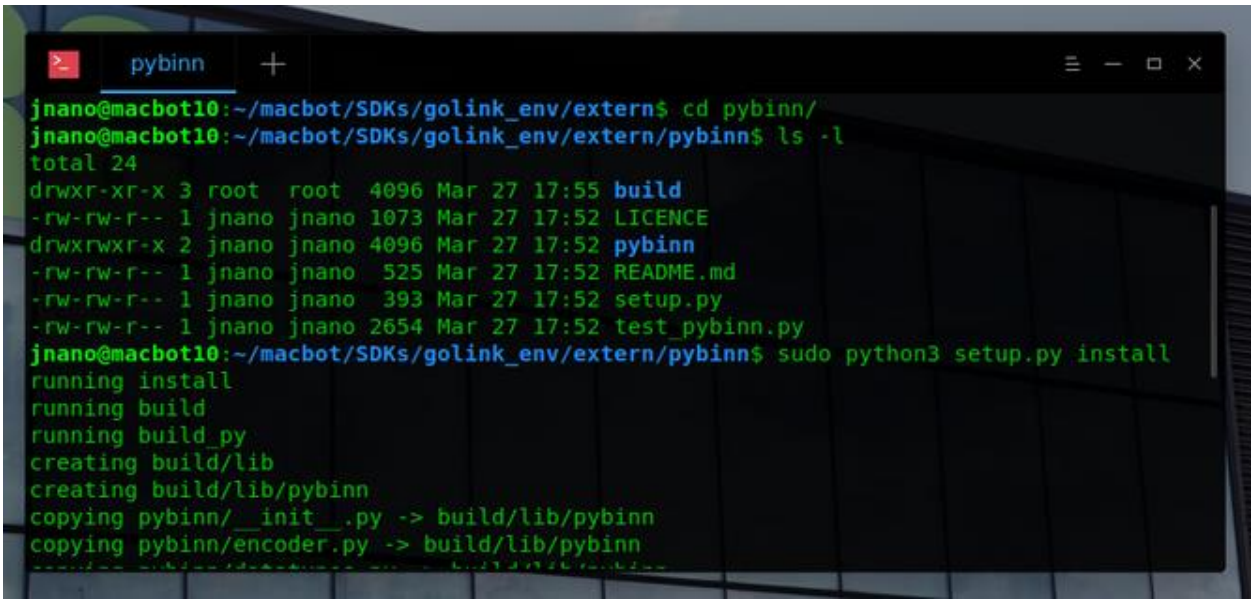


First, lets install **pybinn**. Navigate into the pybinn directory and manually install it.

cd pybinn

ls -l

sudo python3 setup.py install



Navigate back to the extern/ directory, then into the **python-can-isotp/** directory. Install this package manually.

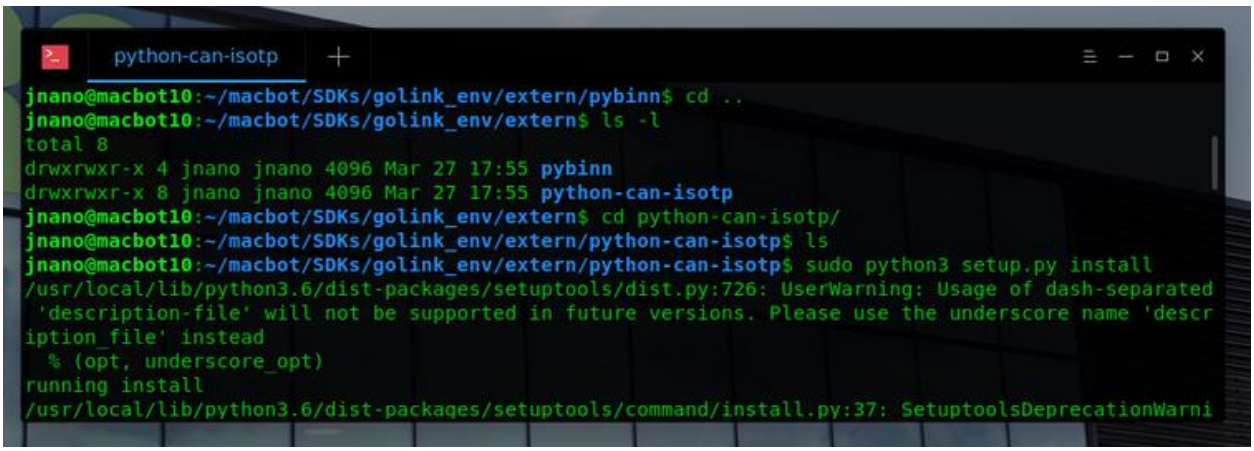
cd ..

ls -l

cd python-can-isotp

ls

sudo python3 setup.py install



Lastly, return to the golink_env directory.

cd ../..

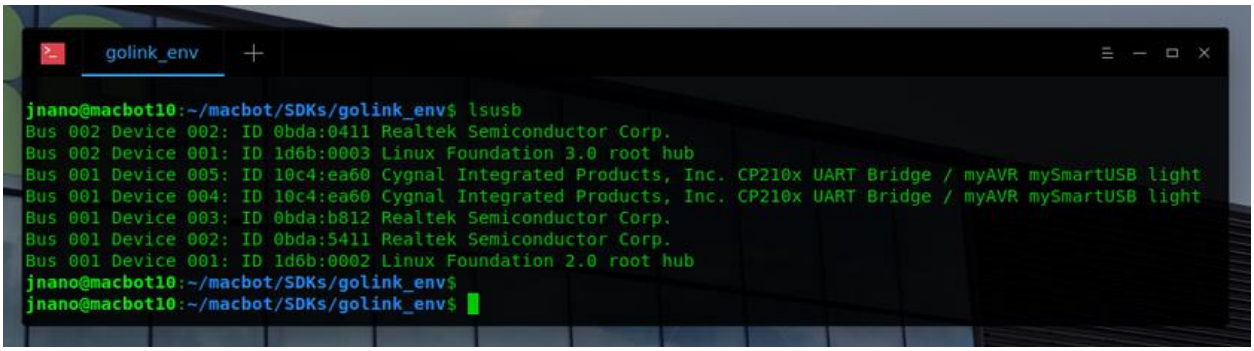
Initializing CAN Communication

In order to begin communicating over CAN, we need to enable the low-level Linux kernel modules that help it communicate with CAN devices.

In order to configure it correctly, we need to know which port the USB-to-CAN board is connected to.

List usb devices. You should notice 2 AVR devices that rely on the CP210X driver. One is the LiDAR and the other is the USB-to-CAN board.

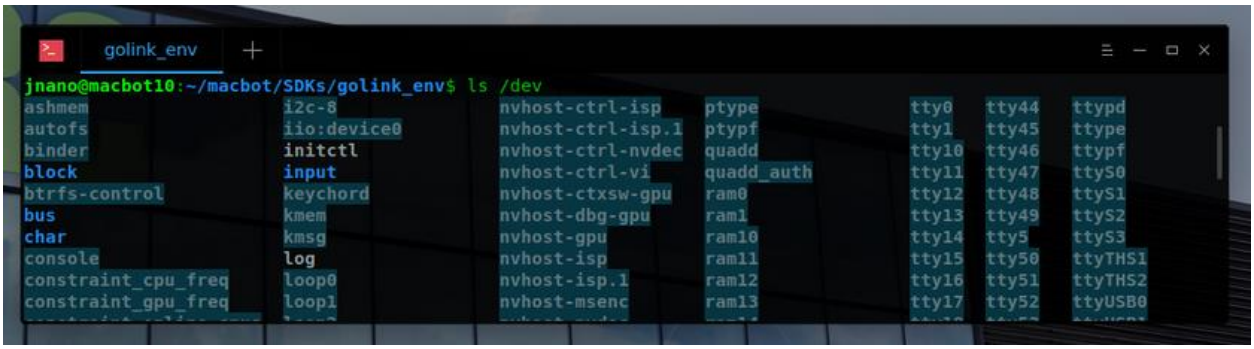
lsusb



The USB-to-CAN board is usually the second of the two devices to be initialized, because of a software delay on the power relay in the distribution board firmware.

We must find which USB port the CAN board is connected to.

ls /dev



You will notice that there are many virtual and hardware connections listed. To narrow it down, search file names using the GREP command.

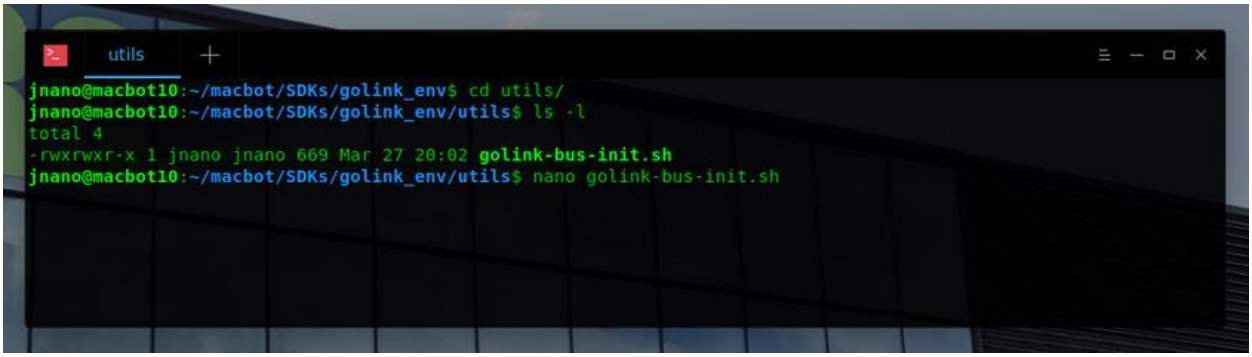
ls /dev | grep USB

Therefore, we can safely assume that the USB-to-CAN board is connected to **/dev/ttyUSB1**.

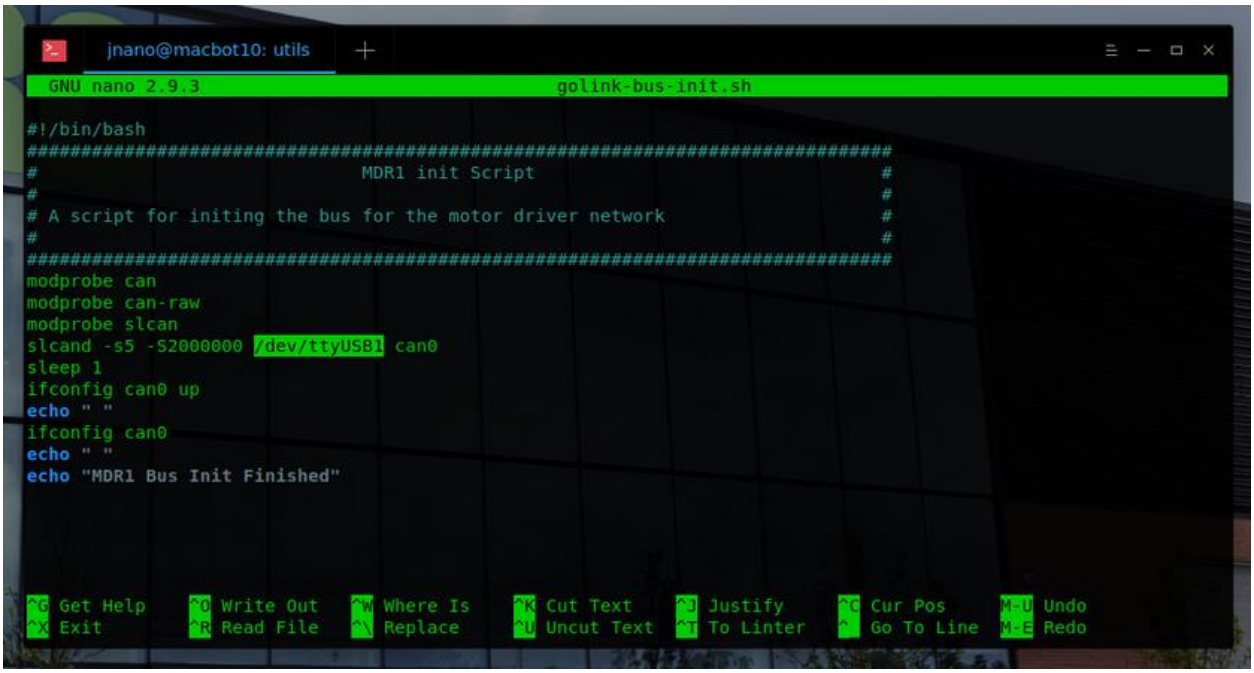
There is a pre-written bash script inside of golink_env/utils to automate the connection process. Before running it, launch it in a text editor to verify that it attempts to initialize on /dev/ttyUSB1.

cd utils

nano golink-bus-init.sh



Nano uses commands similar to windows commands to navigate the interface. Use your arrow keys to navigate the text file. Hold down CTRL + arrow keys to skip word-by-word. Use CTRL + S to save the buffer to the file. Use CTRL + X to exit.

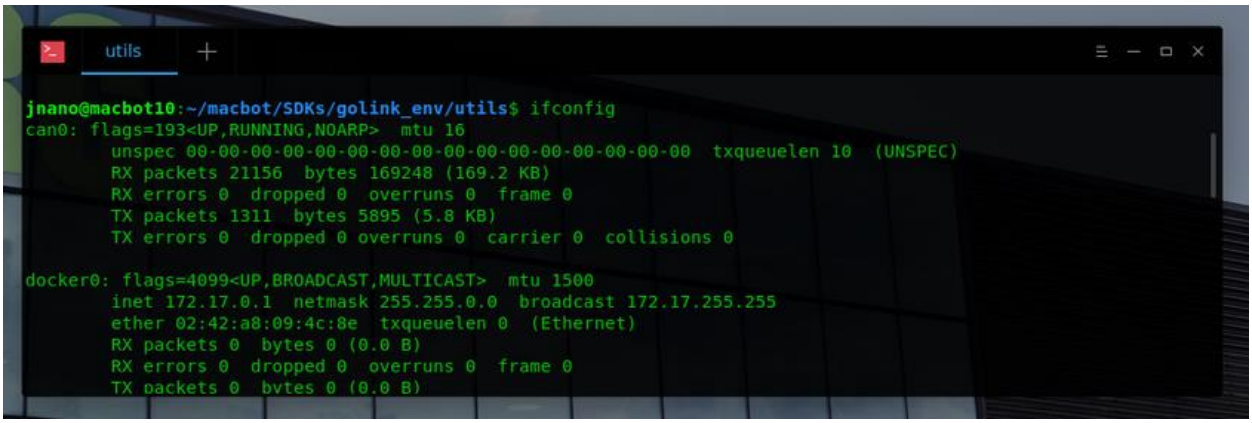


Once you have verified that the port matches, set the script to be executable and run this shell script as administrator.

sudo chmod +x golink-bus-init.sh

./golink-bus-init.sh

If the initialization was successful, you MUST see the CAN0 interface printed to your terminal window. It can also be viewed with the common **ifconfig** command.



It is important to note that this interface MUST be re-initialized after each boot of the MacBot.

Exercise A:

What is a network interface in Linux?

What command is used to view active network interfaces in Linux?

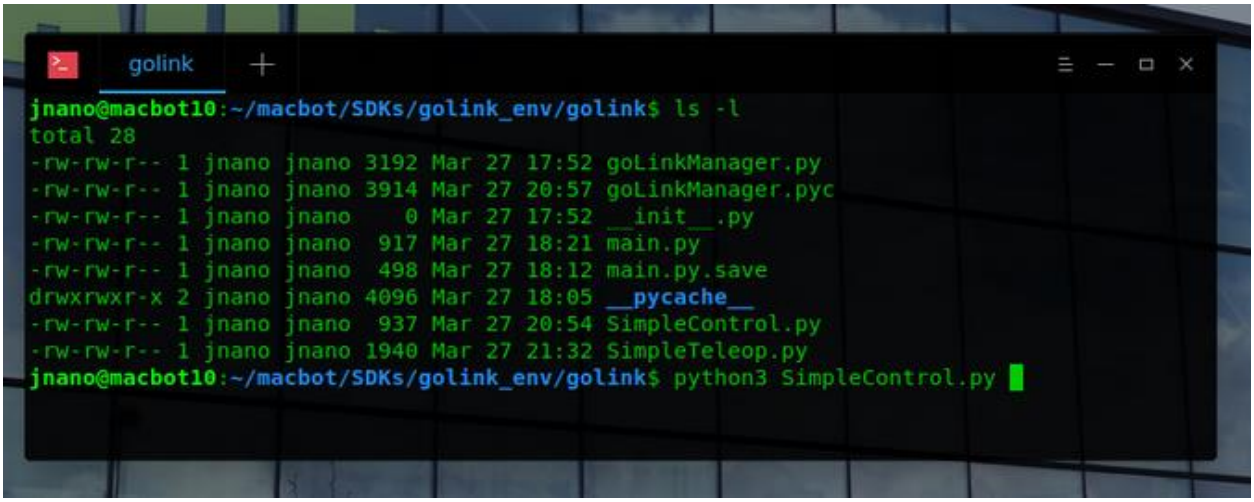
What does the GREP command do in Linux? Why does it used with a | (pipe) character?

Controlling Motors Independently using Python

In the golink_env /golink folder, launch SimpleControl.py.

ls -l

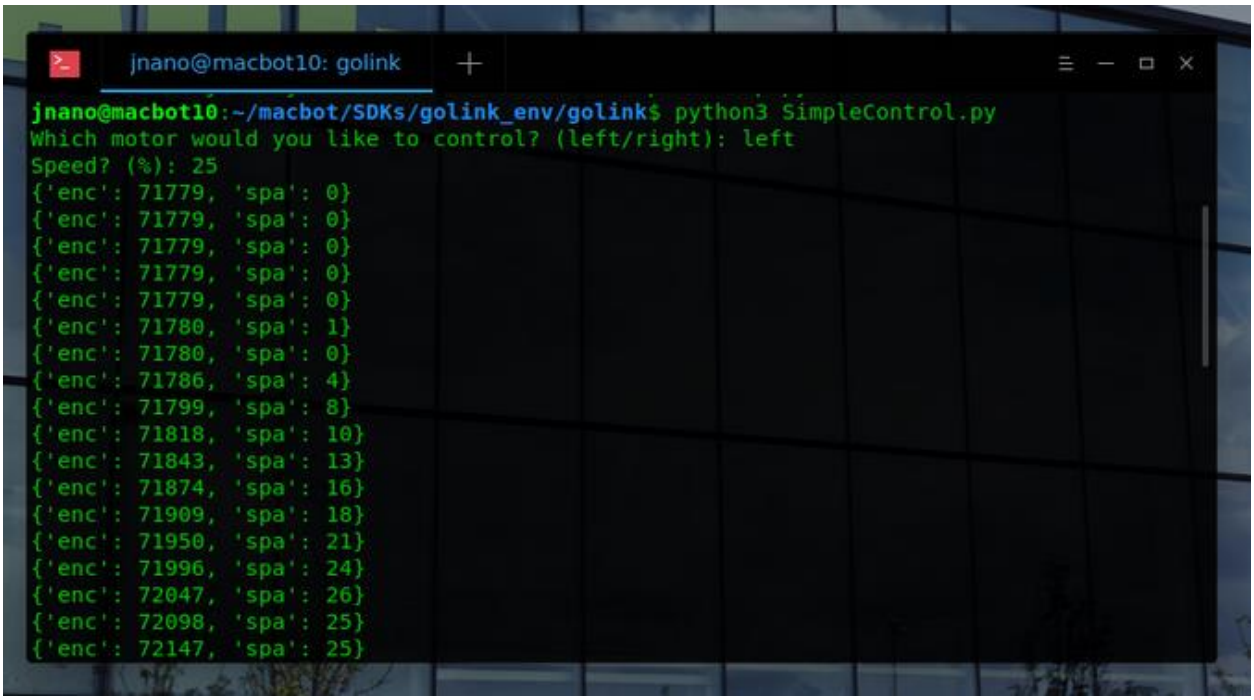
python3 SimpleControl.py



Enter **left** and **25**.

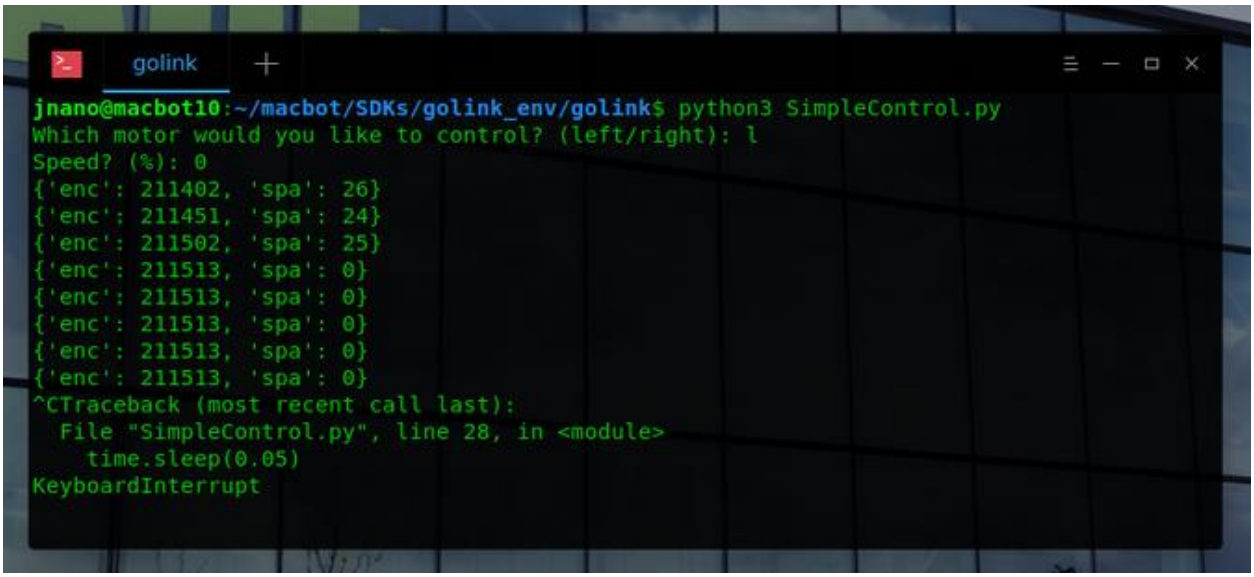
left

25



Notice that the left motor begins rotating.

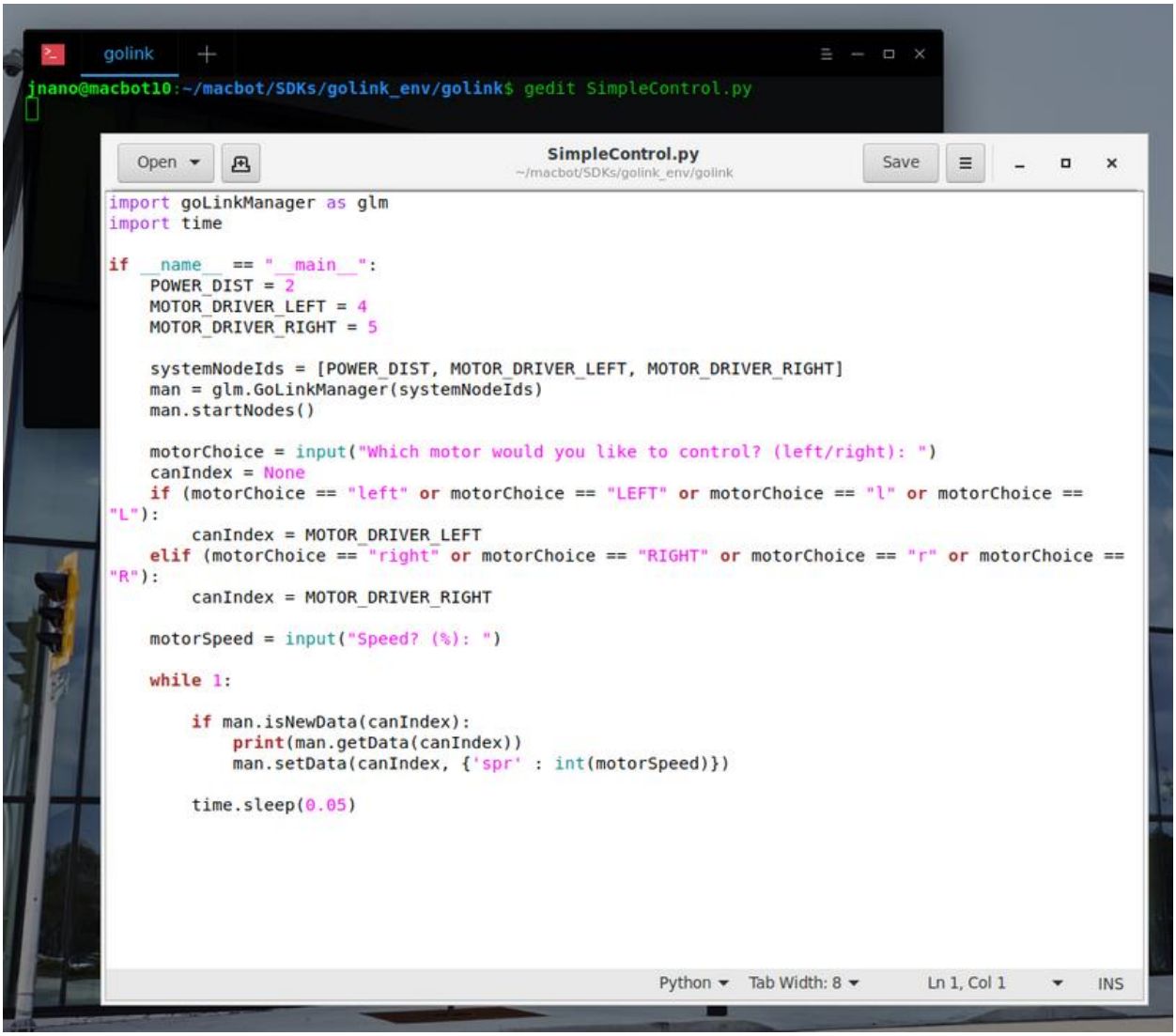
Stop the rotation.



Ensure that you are able to rotate both the left and right wheels and read corresponding encoder data.

Open the Python script to learn how the library is being used behind the scenes.

gedit SimpleControl.py



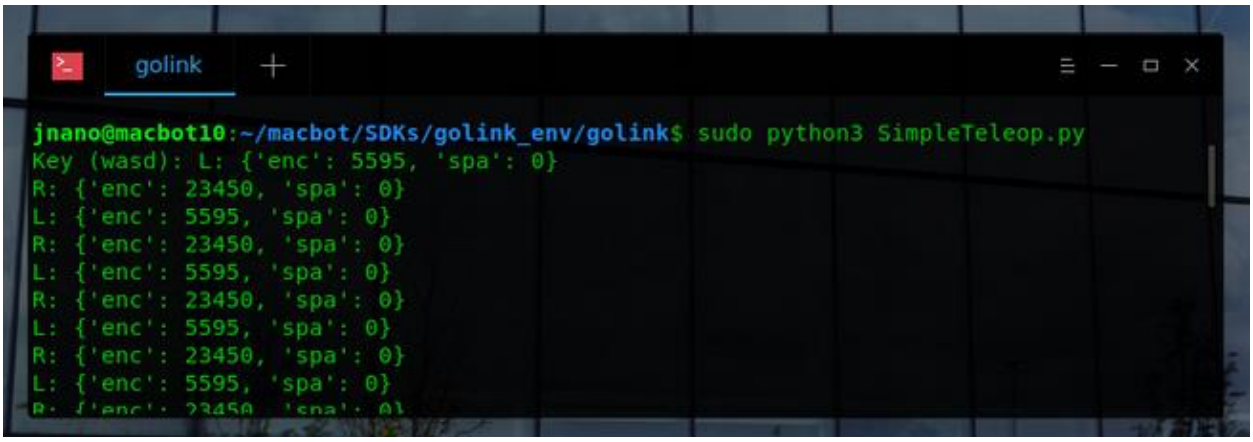
Exercise B:

Record a short video of the wheels responding to your speed change commands. Include this video with your submission.

Coordinating Motors using Python

Launch the SimpleTeleop Python script as superuser.

sudo python3 ./SimpleTeleop.py



The script reads keyboard input to change direction. Type the following commands:

w + <enter>

s + <enter>

a + <enter>

d + <enter>

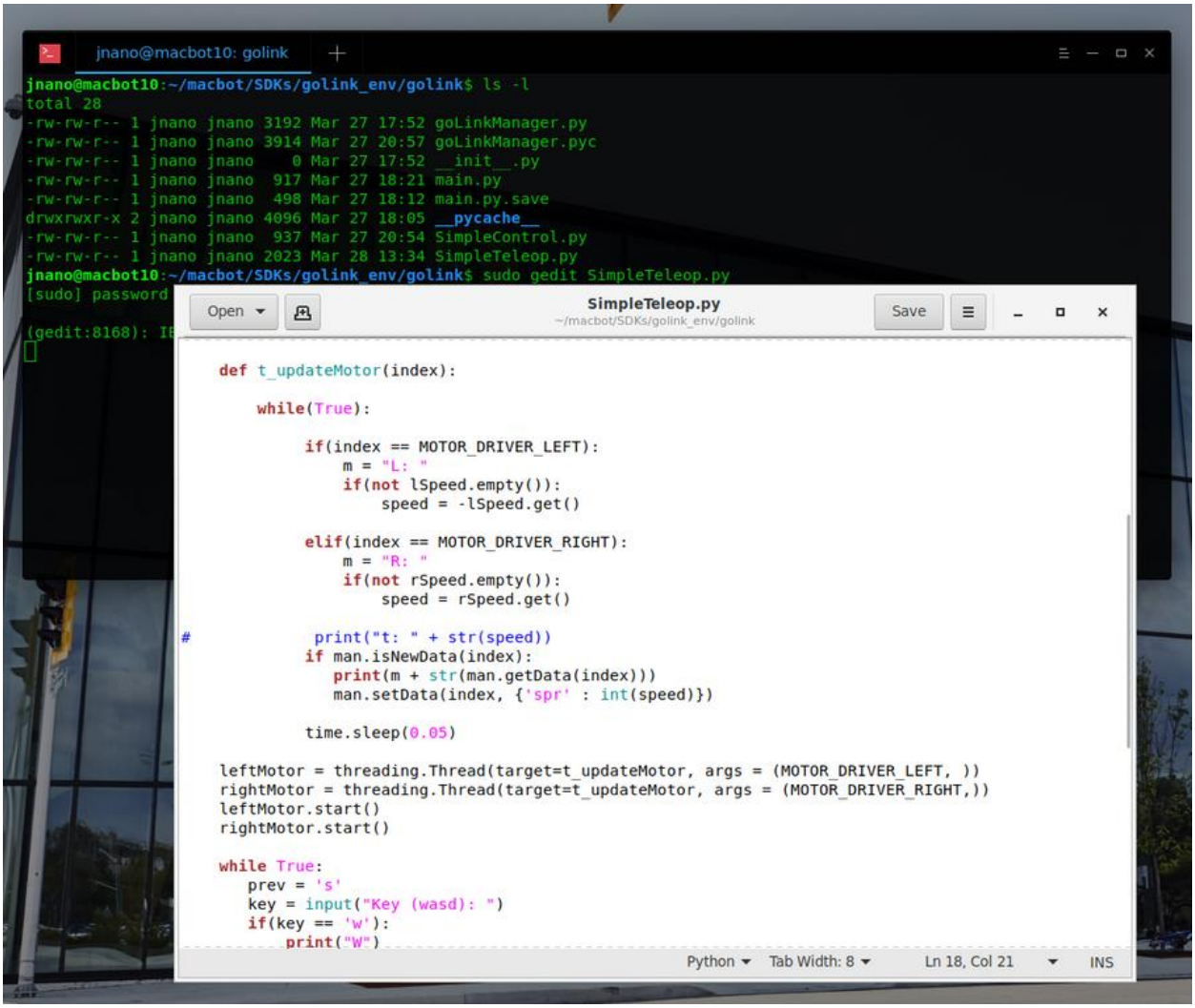
s + <enter>

Once you've established that the teleop controls operate correctly, place the MacBot on the floor and attempt to drive it around, near your lab station.

Next, open the SimpleTeleop Python script using a text editor.

ls -l

sudo gedit SimpleTeleop.py



Notice how each control loop is threaded. Your keyboard interactions are loaded into globally accessible queues. The bottom of each queue (lowest index) is then read during each control loop for the respective motor. The change is then communicated over the CAN bus.

Exercise C:

Record a short video of the MacBot being teleoperated on the floor from your PC over the network. Include this video with your submission.

ROS Integration