MRT ASSIGNMENT 3

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1 Introduction

ROS (Robot Operating System) is an open-source middleware framework for developing and controlling robots. It has very helpful tools for development, debugging, and simulation, fostering a collaborative and extensive developer community. Opency is a python library, very helpful in image processing. ROS and Opency together is a great combination and can be used to do various difficult tasks involving robotics and image processing applications.

2 Summary

I already had mrt_ws in my home directory. So I created a new package named impprocess and in that package I started building nodes for publishing and subscribing to the image message.

2.1 Publisher

In publisher node (python file) I imported Image (msg type) for pushing the message to topic (topic msg type is Image). Then I imported cv2 module to capture video from webcam and get the captured frame in every loop. Then I imported cv_bridge to convert the opency image into Image msg type so that it can be published over a topic.

In main code, I made a class of ImagePublisher where I initialize the node, webcam and cv bridge, then defined looping function and video capturing function both which converted captured frame into Image data and published it on the imgmsg topic and finally I made a main function to enter the script.

2.2 Subscriber

In subscriber node (python file) I imported Image (msg type) for getting the message from topic (topic msg type is Image). Then I imported cv_bridge to convert Image data into opency image, imported cv2, numpy to analyse the canny image.

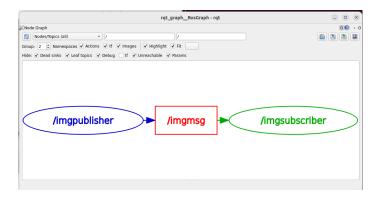


Figure 1: This is the rqt_graph of the nodes currently running in ROS.

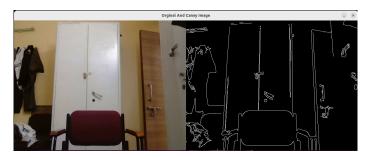


Figure 2: Sample of original image and canny image stacked together.

In main code, I made a class of ImageSubscriber where I initialize the node, cv_bridge and threshold values for canny images. Then I made listener callback, canny_image and stack_image functions which get the image from the imgmsg topic and made canny image out of it, then converted the canny image of 1 channel into 3 channel (RGB) image and finally stacked the images horizontally. Then I made main function to enter the script. It initialized the object of ImageSubscriber class and finally run the node.

2.3 Launch File And Rqt_graph

After those 2 nodes, I made a launch file to launch both the nodes simultaneously and I checked the communication between the nodes using rqt_garph.

3 Conclusion

From this assignment of capturing image from webcam using one ROS node and publishing it to the ROS topic, then subscribing to the ROS topic and getting the image using another node, then applying image processing algorithms on



Figure 3: Sample of original image and canny image stacked together.

it, it is clear that ROS and opency together can be used for various image processing related tasks in robotics and hence is a very great combo.

3.1 Challenges

- Finding the cv_bridge commands to transform opency image into Image datatype and vice-versa.
- Horizontal stacking of original and canny image as the canny image was of 1 channel and original was of 3 channel. So I had to change the shape of canny image to stack it with original image.