XACRO Basics

Estimated time to completion: 25 minutes

7.5 Properties

With XACRO, you can define a constant value, called **property**, and use it as a more flexible alternative than hard-coded values. Keeping constant values as **properties** and referencing them when needed allows you to easily adapt your robot model without changing the same value in different places.

The code block below shows the definition of three different properties:

XACRO properties can be declared anywhere. It does not need to be done at the beginning, but it is recommended to do so. That way, you do not have to scroll down a long file just to change a value.

In the example above, you have declared the following:

- body_width: 0.1body_lenght: 0.1body_height: 0.1
- Resolution of properties: Once these properties are set, you can specify the actual robot width, length, and height in the geometry element by using a dollar sign and the property name enclosed in curly braces {} to denote the property value, for example, \${body_width}}.

So, for instance, this XACRO code here:

```
In [ ]:
        <xacro:property name="body width" value="0.1"/>
        <xacro:property name="body lenght" value="0.1"/>
        <xacro:property name="body height" value="0.1"/>
          <link name="chassis">
            <visual>
              <geometry>
                <box size="${body width} ${body lenght} ${body height}"/>
              </geometry>
            </visual>
            <collision>
              <geometry>
                <box size="${body_width} ${body_lenght} ${body_height}"/>
              </geometry>
            </collision>
          </link>
```

It will generate this URDF code here:

As with URDF files, the measuring units are meters and radians.

- Exercise 7.4.1 -

Task 1:

- Modify the box_bot XACRO description from Exercise 7.1.1 and define the XACRO properties body_width, body_lenght, body_height.
- Modify the launch file **urdf_visualize.launch.py** and replace **box_bot_simple.urdf** with **box_bot.xacro**.

For your convenience, the starter code for this exercise is made available here:

box_bot.xacro

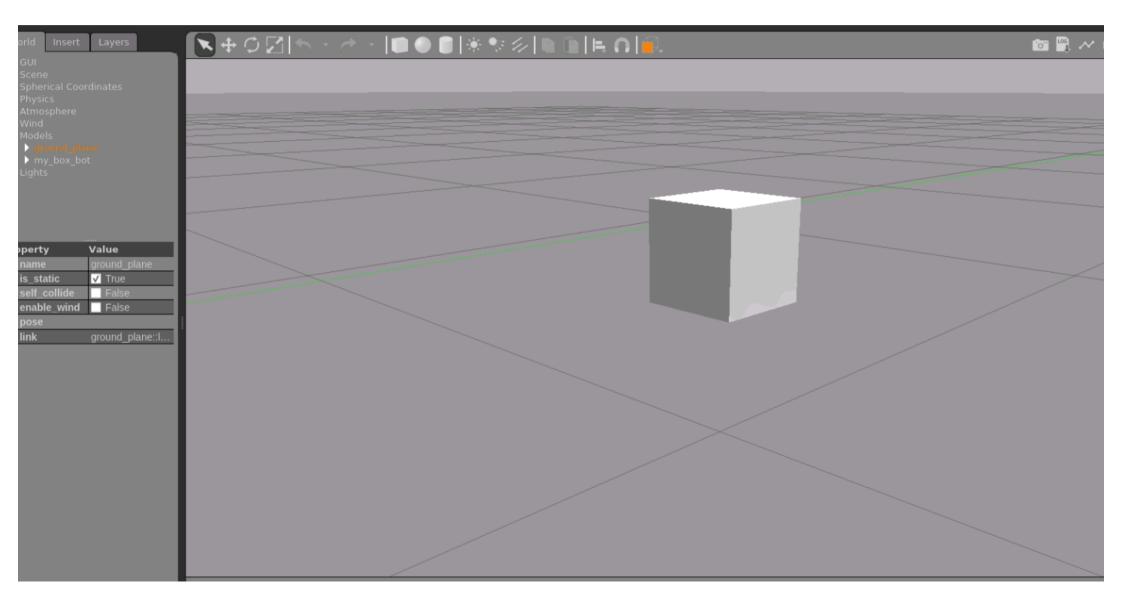
```
In [ ]: | <?xml version="1.0"?>
        <robot xmlns:xacro="http://www.ros.org/wiki/xacro" name="my box bot">
        <link name="base_link">
          </link>
          <joint name="base link joint" type="fixed">
            <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 0 0" />
            <parent link="base_link" />
            <child link="chassis" />
          </ioint>
          <link name="chassis">
            <visual>
              <geometry>
                <box size="0.1 0.1 0.1"/>
              </geometry>
            </visual>
            <collision>
              <geometry>
                <box size="0.1 0.1 0.1"/>
              </geometry>
            </collision>
            <inertial>
              <mass value="0.5"/>
              <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 0 0"/>
              <inertia ixx="0.00083333333333333" ixy="0" ixz="0" iyy="0.00083333333333" iyz="0" izz="0.0008333333333333" />
            </inertial>
          </link>
        </robot>
```

- End of Exercise 7.4.1 -

```
In [ ]: | <?xml version="1.0"?>
        <robot xmlns:xacro="http://www.ros.org/wiki/xacro" name="my box bot">
         <xacro:property name="body_width" value="0.1"/>
         <xacro:property name="body lenght" value="0.1"/>
        <xacro:property name="body height" value="0.1"/>
        <link name="base_link">
           </link>
          <joint name="base link joint" type="fixed">
             <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 0 0" />
            <parent link="base link" />
            <child link="chassis" />
           </ioint>
           <link name="chassis">
             <visual>
              <geometry>
                <box size="${body width} ${body lenght} ${body height}"/>
              </geometry>
             </visual>
             <collision>
              <geometry>
                <box size="${body_width} ${body_lenght} ${body_height}"/>
              </geometry>
            </collision>
             <inertial>
              <mass value="0.5"/>
              <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 0 0"/>
              <inertia ixx="0.000833333333333333" ixy="0" ixz="0" iyy="0.000833333333333" iyz="0" izz="0.0008333333333333333333333"/>
             </inertial>
           </link>
         </robot>
```

In []: cd ~/ros2_ws && colcon build && source install/setup.bash
In []: ros2 launch my_box_bot_description box_bot_xacro.launch.py

It appears to be the same cube.



- End of Solution to Exercise 7.4.1 -

- Exercise 7.4.2 -

Task 2:

- Continue by adding the URDF elements shown below. There is no need to add sensors and control for the moment.
- Create the properties wheel width and wheel radius and then use them to create the main drive wheels on each side of the robot.
- Remember to install your robot model using colcon build.
- Remember to run ros2 run joint_state_publisher_gui joint_state_publisher_gui to see the wheels in RVIZ2.

```
In [ ]:
          <!-- Wheel Left -->
          <link name="left wheel">
               <visual>
                 <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
                <geometry>
                  <cylinder length="0.001" radius="0.035"/>
                </geometry>
                <material name="red"/>
               </visual>
               <collision>
                 <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
                <geometry>
                  <cylinder length="0.001" radius="0.035"/>
                </geometry>
              </collision>
               <inertial>
                <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
                <mass value="0.05"/>
                <inertia ixx="1.531666666666666-05" ixy="0" ixz="0" iyy="1.53166666666666-05" iyz="0" izz="3.06250000000000006e-05"/>
               </inertial>
          </link>
          <joint name="joint left wheel" type="continuous">
            <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 0.05 -0.025"/>
            <child link="left_wheel"/>
            <parent link="chassis"/>
            <axis rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 1 0"/>
            <limit effort="10000" velocity="1000"/>
            <joint properties damping="1.0" friction="1.0"/>
          </joint>
          <!-- Wheel Right -->
          <link name="right_wheel">
               <visual>
                <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
                 <geometry>
```

```
<cylinder length="0.001" radius="0.035"/>
      </geometry>
      <material name="green"/>
    </visual>
    <collision>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <geometry>
        <cylinder length="0.001" radius="0.035"/>
      </geometry>
    </collision>
    <inertial>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <mass value="0.05"/>
      <inertia ixx="1.531666666666666-05" ixy="0" ixz="0" iyy="1.53166666666666-05" iyz="0" izz="3.06250000000000006e-05"/>
    </inertial>
</link>
<joint name="joint right wheel" type="continuous">
  <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 -0.05 -0.025"/>
 <child link="right wheel"/>
 <parent link="chassis"/>
  <axis rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 1 0"/>
  <limit effort="10000" velocity="1000"/>
 <joint properties damping="1.0" friction="1.0"/>
</joint>
<!-- Caster Wheel Front -->
<link name="front yaw link">
    <visual>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <geometry>
        <cylinder length="0.001" radius="0.00450000000000000000005"/>
      </geometry>
     <material name="blue"/>
    </visual>
    <collision>
```

```
<origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
    <geometry>
      </geometry>
   </collision>
   <inertial>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <mass value="0.001"/>
      <inertia ixx="5.14583333333334e-09" ixy="0" ixz="0" iyy="5.1458333333334e-09" iyz="0" izz="1.012500000000000e-08"/>
   </inertial>
</link>
<joint name="front yaw joint" type="continuous">
 <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0.04 0 -0.05" />
 <parent link="chassis" />
 <child link="front yaw link" />
 <axis xyz="0 0 1" />
 <limit effort="1000.0" velocity="100.0" />
 <dynamics damping="0.0" friction="0.1"/>
</joint>
<link name="front_roll_link">
   <visual>
    <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
     <geometry>
      </geometry>
     <material name="red"/>
   </visual>
   <collision>
     <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
     <geometry>
      </geometry>
   </collision>
```

```
<inertial>
        <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
        <mass value="0.001"/>
        <inertia ixx="5.145833333333334e-09" ixy="0" ixz="0" iyy="5.1458333333334e-09" iyz="0" izz="1.01250000000000000e-08"/>
    </inertial>
</link>
<joint name="front roll joint" type="continuous">
  <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 0 0" />
 <parent link="front yaw link" />
  <child link="front roll link" />
  <axis xyz="1 0 0" />
 <limit effort="1000.0" velocity="100.0" />
 <dynamics damping="0.0" friction="0.1"/>
</ioint>
<link name="front pitch link">
  <visual>
    <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
   <geometry>
      <sphere radius="0.010"/>
   </geometry>
    <material name="green dark"/>
  </visual>
  <collision>
    <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
    <geometry>
      <sphere radius="0.010"/>
   </geometry>
  </collision>
  <inertial>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <mass value="0.001"/>
     <inertia ixx="4e-08" ixy="0" ixz="0" iyy="4e-08" iyz="0" izz="4e-08"/>
  </inertial>
</link>
```

```
<joint name="front pitch joint" type="continuous">
   <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 0 0" />
   <parent link="front roll link" />
   <child link="front pitch link" />
   <axis xyz="0 1 0" />
   <limit effort="1000.0" velocity="100.0" />
   <dynamics damping="0.0" friction="0.1"/>
 </ioint>
<!-- Caster Wheel Back -->
 <link name="back yaw link">
   <visual>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <geometry>
       </geometry>
      <material name="blue"/>
    </visual>
    <collision>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <geometry>
       </geometry>
    </collision>
    <inertial>
        <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
       <mass value="0.001"/>
       </inertial>
 </link>
 <joint name="back yaw joint" type="continuous">
   <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="-0.04 0 -0.05" />
   <parent link="chassis" />
   <child link="back yaw link" />
   <axis xyz="0 0 1" />
   <limit effort="1000.0" velocity="100.0" />
   <dynamics damping="0.0" friction="0.1"/>
```

```
</joint>
<link name="back roll link">
   <visual>
    <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
    <geometry>
      </geometry>
    <material name="red"/>
   </visual>
   <collision>
    <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
    <geometry>
      </geometry>
   </collision>
   <inertial>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <mass value="0.001"/>
      </inertial>
</link>
<joint name="back roll joint" type="continuous">
 <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 0 0" />
 <parent link="back_yaw_link" />
 <child link="back roll link" />
 <axis xyz="1 0 0" />
 <limit effort="1000.0" velocity="100.0" />
 <dynamics damping="0.0" friction="0.1"/>
</joint>
<link name="back pitch link">
 <visual>
   <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
   <geometry>
```

```
<sphere radius="0.010"/>
    </geometry>
    <material name="green light"/>
  </visual>
  <collision>
    <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
   <geometry>
     <sphere radius="0.010"/>
   </geometry>
 </collision>
 <inertial>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <mass value="0.001"/>
      <inertia ixx="4e-08" ixy="0" ixz="0" iyy="4e-08" iyz="0" izz="4e-08"/>
  </inertial>
</link>
<joint name="back pitch joint" type="continuous">
  <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 0 0" />
 <parent link="back_roll_link" />
 <child link="back pitch link" />
 <axis xyz="0 1 0" />
 <limit effort="1000.0" velocity="100.0" />
 <dynamics damping="0.0" friction="0.1"/>
</joint>
```

- End of Exercise 7.4.2 -

- Solution to Exercise 7.4.2 -

```
In [ ]: | <?xml version="1.0"?>
        <robot xmlns:xacro="http://www.ros.org/wiki/xacro" name="my box bot">
        <xacro:property name="body_width" value="0.1"/>
        <xacro:property name="body lenght" value="0.1"/>
        <xacro:property name="body height" value="0.1"/>
        <xacro:property name="wheel width" value="0.001"/>
        <xacro:property name="wheel radius" value="0.035"/>
        <link name="base link">
          </link>
          <joint name="base link joint" type="fixed">
            <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 0 0" />
            <parent link="base link" />
            <child link="chassis" />
          </joint>
          <link name="chassis">
            <visual>
              <geometry>
                <box size="${body width} ${body lenght} ${body height}"/>
              </geometry>
            </visual>
            <collision>
              <geometry>
                <box size="${body_width} ${body_lenght} ${body_height}"/>
              </geometry>
            </collision>
            <inertial>
              <mass value="0.5"/>
              <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 0 0"/>
              <inertia ixx="0.00083333333333333" ixy="0" ixz="0" iyy="0.00083333333333" iyz="0" izz="0.00083333333333333"/>
            </inertial>
          </link>
```

```
<!-- Wheel Left -->
<link name="left wheel">
    <visual>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <geometry>
        <cylinder length="${wheel width}" radius="${wheel radius}"/>
      </geometry>
    </visual>
    <collision>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <geometry>
        <cylinder length="${wheel_width}" radius="${wheel_radius}"/>
      </geometry>
    </collision>
    <inertial>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <mass value="0.05"/>
      <inertia ixx="1.531666666666666-05" ixy="0" ixz="0" iyy="1.5316666666666-05" iyz="0" izz="3.0625000000000006e-05"/>
    </inertial>
</link>
<joint name="joint left wheel" type="continuous">
  <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 0.05 -0.025"/>
 <child link="left_wheel"/>
 <parent link="chassis"/>
 <axis rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 1 0"/>
 <limit effort="10000" velocity="1000"/>
  <joint_properties damping="1.0" friction="1.0"/>
</joint>
<!-- Wheel Right -->
<link name="right wheel">
    <visual>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <geometry>
        <cylinder length="${wheel width}" radius="${wheel radius}"/>
      </geometry>
```

```
</visual>
   <collision>
     <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
     <geometry>
       <cylinder length="${wheel width}" radius="${wheel radius}"/>
     </geometry>
   </collision>
   <inertial>
     <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
     <mass value="0.05"/>
     <inertia ixx="1.531666666666666-05" ixy="0" ixz="0" iyy="1.5316666666666-05" iyz="0" izz="3.0625000000000006e-05"/>
   </inertial>
</link>
<joint name="joint right wheel" type="continuous">
 <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 -0.05 -0.025"/>
 <child link="right wheel"/>
 <parent link="chassis"/>
 <axis rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 1 0"/>
 <limit effort="10000" velocity="1000"/>
 <joint properties damping="1.0" friction="1.0"/>
</joint>
<!-- Caster Wheel Front -->
<link name="front yaw link">
   <visual>
     <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
     <geometry>
       </geometry>
   </visual>
   <collision>
     <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
     <geometry>
       <cylinder length="0.001" radius="0.00450000000000000000000"/>
     </geometry>
```

```
</collision>
   <inertial>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <mass value="0.001"/>
      <inertia ixx="5.145833333333334e-09" ixy="0" ixz="0" iyy="5.1458333333334e-09" iyz="0" izz="1.01250000000000000e-08"/>
   </inertial>
</link>
<joint name="front yaw joint" type="continuous">
 <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0.04 0 -0.05" />
 <parent link="chassis" />
 <child link="front yaw link" />
 <axis xyz="0 0 1" />
 <limit effort="1000.0" velocity="100.0" />
 <dynamics damping="0.0" friction="0.1"/>
</ioint>
<link name="front roll link">
   <visual>
    <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
    <geometry>
      </geometry>
   </visual>
   <collision>
    <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
    <geometry>
      </geometry>
   </collision>
   <inertial>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <mass value="0.001"/>
      </inertial>
```

```
</link>
<joint name="front roll joint" type="continuous">
  <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 0 0" />
  <parent link="front yaw link" />
  <child link="front roll link" />
  <axis xyz="1 0 0" />
 <limit effort="1000.0" velocity="100.0" />
  <dynamics damping="0.0" friction="0.1"/>
</ioint>
<link name="front pitch link">
  <visual>
    <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
   <geometry>
      <sphere radius="0.010"/>
   </geometry>
 </visual>
  <collision>
    <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
   <geometry>
      <sphere radius="0.010"/>
    </geometry>
  </collision>
  <inertial>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <mass value="0.001"/>
      <inertia ixx="4e-08" ixy="0" ixz="0" iyy="4e-08" iyz="0" izz="4e-08"/>
  </inertial>
</link>
<joint name="front pitch joint" type="continuous">
  <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 0 0" />
 <parent link="front roll link" />
  <child link="front_pitch_link" />
 <axis xyz="0 1 0" />
  dimit effort="1000.0" velocity="100.0" />
```

```
<dynamics damping="0.0" friction="0.1"/>
 </ioint>
<!-- Caster Wheel Back -->
 <link name="back yaw link">
   <visual>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <geometry>
       </geometry>
    </visual>
    <collision>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <geometry>
       </geometry>
    </collision>
    <inertial>
       <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
       <mass value="0.001"/>
       </inertial>
 </link>
 <joint name="back yaw joint" type="continuous">
   <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="-0.04 0 -0.05" />
  <parent link="chassis" />
   <child link="back yaw link" />
   <axis xyz="0 0 1" />
  <limit effort="1000.0" velocity="100.0" />
   <dynamics damping="0.0" friction="0.1"/>
 </joint>
 <link name="back roll link">
    <visual>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <geometry>
```

```
<cylinder length="0.001" radius="0.00450000000000000000005"/>
    </geometry>
   </visual>
   <collision>
     <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
     <geometry>
      </geometry>
   </collision>
   <inertial>
      <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
      <mass value="0.001"/>
      </inertial>
</link>
<joint name="back roll joint" type="continuous">
 <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 0 0" />
 <parent link="back yaw link" />
 <child link="back roll link" />
 <axis xyz="1 0 0" />
 <limit effort="1000.0" velocity="100.0" />
 <dynamics damping="0.0" friction="0.1"/>
</ioint>
<link name="back_pitch_link">
 <visual>
   <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
   <geometry>
    <sphere radius="0.010"/>
   </geometry>
 </visual>
 <collision>
   <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
   <geometry>
     <sphere radius="0.010"/>
```

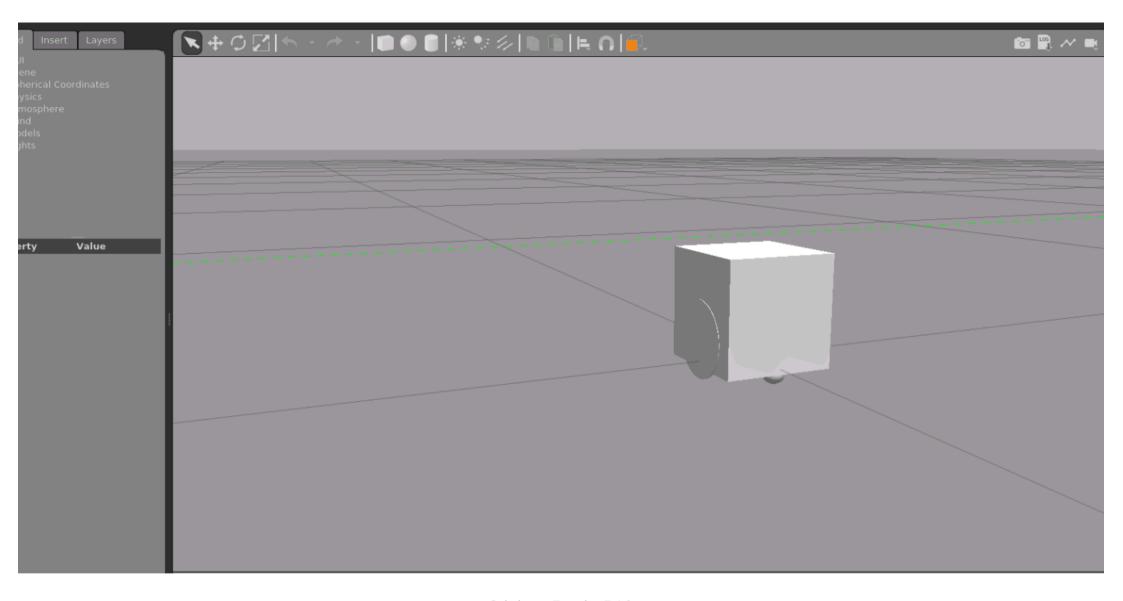
```
</geometry>
   </collision>
   <inertial>
        <origin rpy="0 1.5707 1.5707" xyz="0 0 0"/>
       <mass value="0.001"/>
       <inertia ixx="4e-08" ixy="0" ixz="0" iyy="4e-08" iyz="0" izz="4e-08"/>
   </inertial>
 </link>
 <joint name="back pitch joint" type="continuous">
   <origin rpy="0 0 0" xyz="0 0 0" />
   <parent link="back_roll_link" />
   <child link="back pitch link" />
   <axis xyz="0 1 0" />
   <limit effort="1000.0" velocity="100.0" />
   <dynamics damping="0.0" friction="0.1"/>
 </ioint>
</robot>
```

► Execute in Webshell 1

In []: cd ~/ros2_ws && colcon build && source install/setup.bash

In []: ros2 launch my box bot description box bot xacro.launch.py

It appears to be the same cube with wheels:



- Solution to Exercise 7.4.2 -

