



# ROS-Industrial Basic Developer's Training Class

October 2024



Southwest Research Institute





# Session 3:

## Motion Control of Manipulators

Southwest Research Institute



# Outline



- URDF
- TF
- Motion Planning in ROS





# HowTo:

## Set Up a New Robot

1. Create a URDF
2. Create a MoveIt! Package
3. Update MoveIt! Package for ROS-I
4. Test on ROS-I Simulator
5. Test on “Real” Robot





# URDF: Unified Robot Description Format

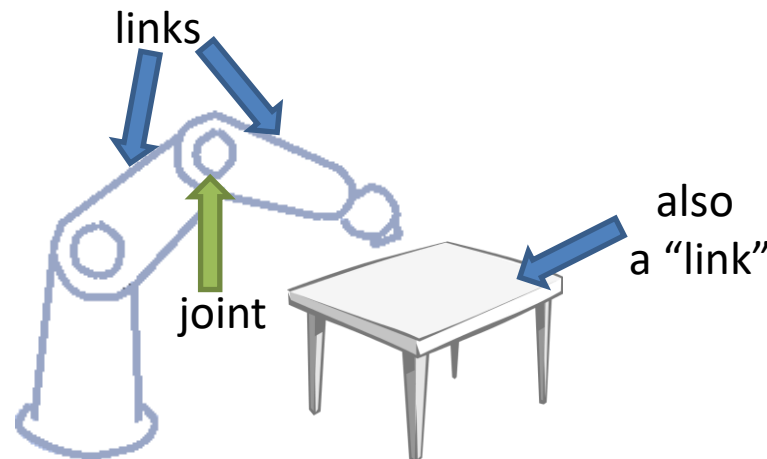




# URDF: Overview



- URDF is an **XML**-formatted file containing:
  - **Links** : coordinate frames and associated geometry
  - **Joints** : connections between links
- Similar to DH-parameters (but way less painful)
- Can describe entire workspace, not just robots



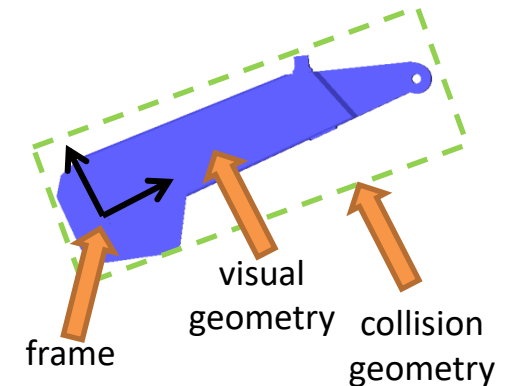


# URDF: Link



- A **Link** describes a **physical** or **virtual** object
  - Physical: robot link, workpiece, end-effector, ...
  - Virtual : TCP, robot base frame, ...
- Each link becomes a **TF frame**
- Can contain visual/collision **geometry** [optional]
- <http://wiki.ros.org/urdf/XML/link>

```
<link name="link_4">
  <visual>
    <geometry>
      <mesh filename="link_4.stl"/>
    </geometry>
    <origin xyz="0 0 0" rpy="0 0 0" />
  </visual>
  <collision>
    <geometry>
      <cylinder length="0.5" radius="0.1"/>
    </geometry>
    <origin xyz="0 0 -0.05" rpy="0 0 0" />
  </collision>
</link>
```



## URDF Transforms

X/Y/Z	Roll/Pitch/Yaw
Meters	Radians



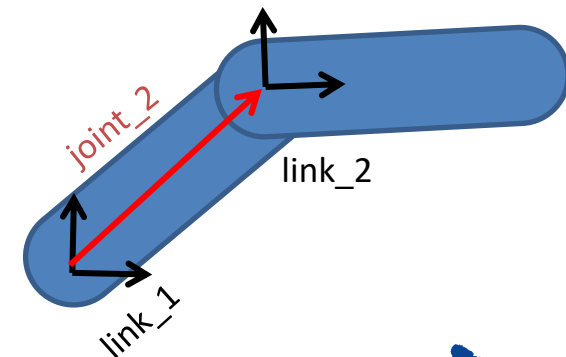


# URDF: Joint



- A **Joint** connects two **Links**
  - Defines a **transform** between **parent** and **child** frames
    - Types: *fixed, free, linear, rotary*
  - Denotes axis of movement (*for linear / rotary*)
  - Contains joint limits on position and velocity
- ROS-I conventions
  - X-axis front, Z-Axis up
  - Keep all frames similarly rotated when possible
- <http://wiki.ros.org/urdf/XML/joint>

```
<joint name="joint_2" type="revolute">  
  <parent link="link_1"/>  
  <child link="link_2"/>  
  <origin xyz="0.2 0.2 0" rpy="0 0 0"/>  
  <axis xyz="0 0 1"/>  
  <limit lower="-3.14" upper="3.14" velocity="1.0"/>  
</joint>
```



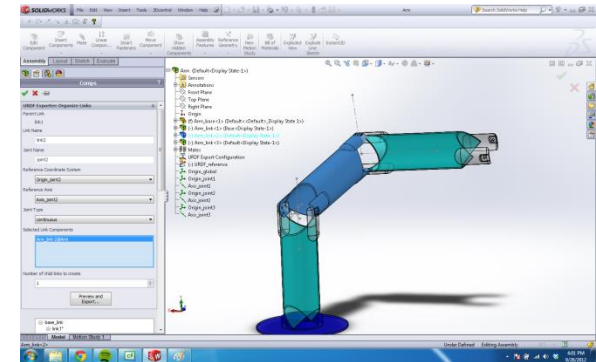




# URDF Tips



- create from datasheet or use [Solidworks Add-In](#)
- double-check joint-offsets for accuracy
- round near-zero offsets (if appropriate)
- use “base\_link” and “tool0”
- use simplified collision models
  - convex-hull or primitives





# Verify the URDF



- It is **critical** to verify that your URDF matches the physical robot:
  - each joint moves as expected
  - joint-coupling issues are identified
  - min/max joint limits
  - joint directions (pos/neg)
  - correct zero-position, etc.
  - check forward kinematics

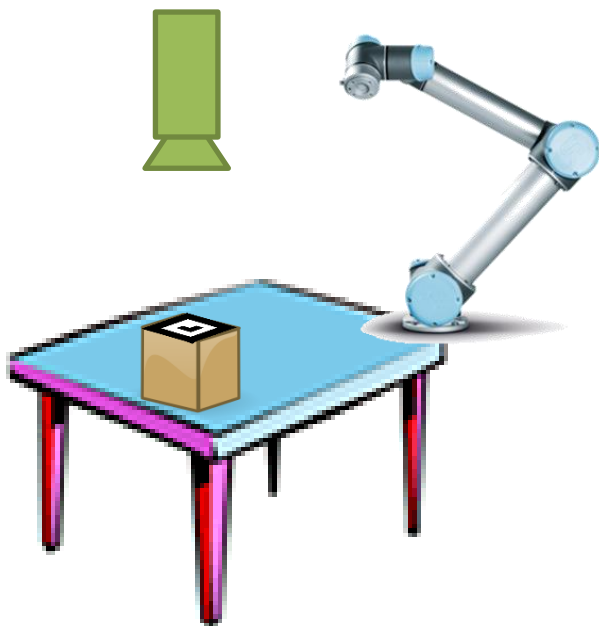




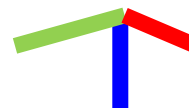
# Exercise 3.0

## Exercise 3.0

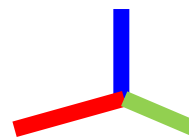
*Create a simple urdf*



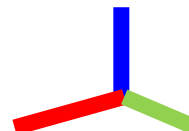
camera\_frame



table



world





# URDF: XACRO



- **XACRO** is an XML-based “macro language” for building URDFs
  - `<Include>` other XACROs, with parameters
  - Simple expressions: math, substitution
- Used to build complex URDFs
  - multi-robot workcells
  - reuse standard URDFs (e.g. robots, tooling)

```
<xacro:include filename="myRobot.xacro"/>
```

```
<xacro:myRobot prefix="left_"/>
```

```
<xacro:myRobot prefix="right_"/>
```

```
<property name="offset" value="1.3"/>
```

```
<joint name="world to left" type="fixed">
```

```
  <parent link="world"/>
```

```
  <child link="left base link"/>
```

```
  <origin xyz="{offset/2} 0 0" rpy="0 0 0"/>
```

```
</joint>
```

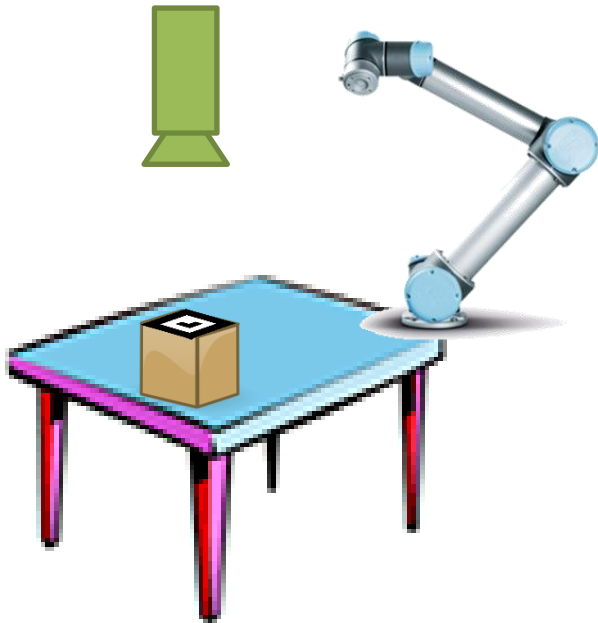




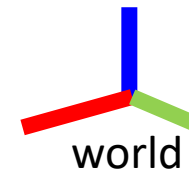
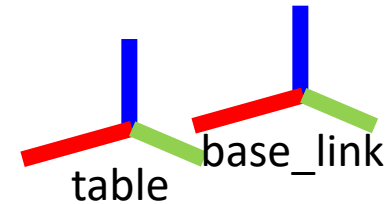
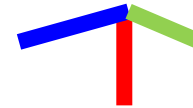
# Exercise 3.1

## Exercise 3.1

*Combine simple urdf with ur5 xacro*



camera\_frame





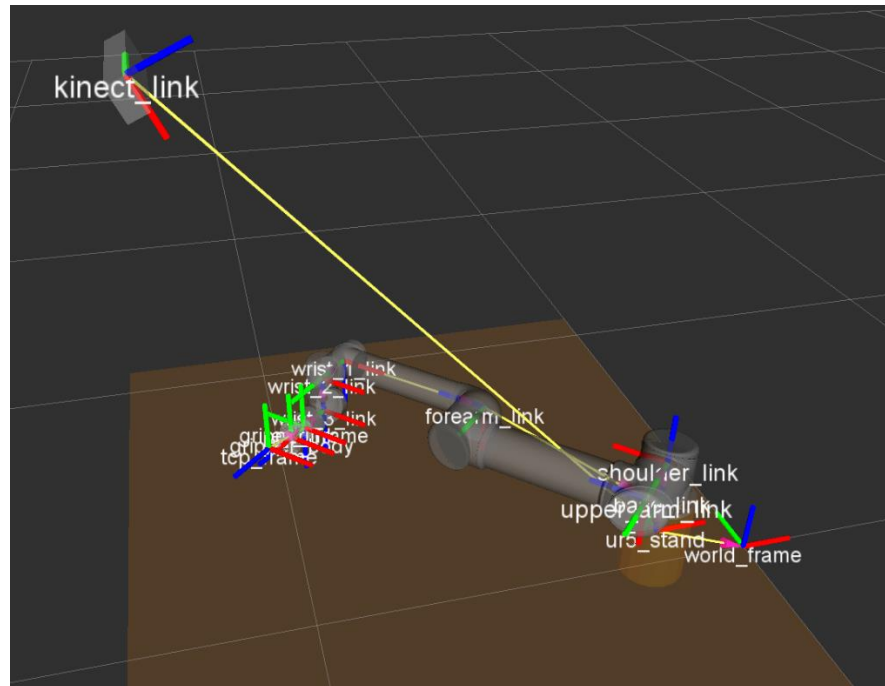
# TF – Transforms in ROS





# TF: Overview

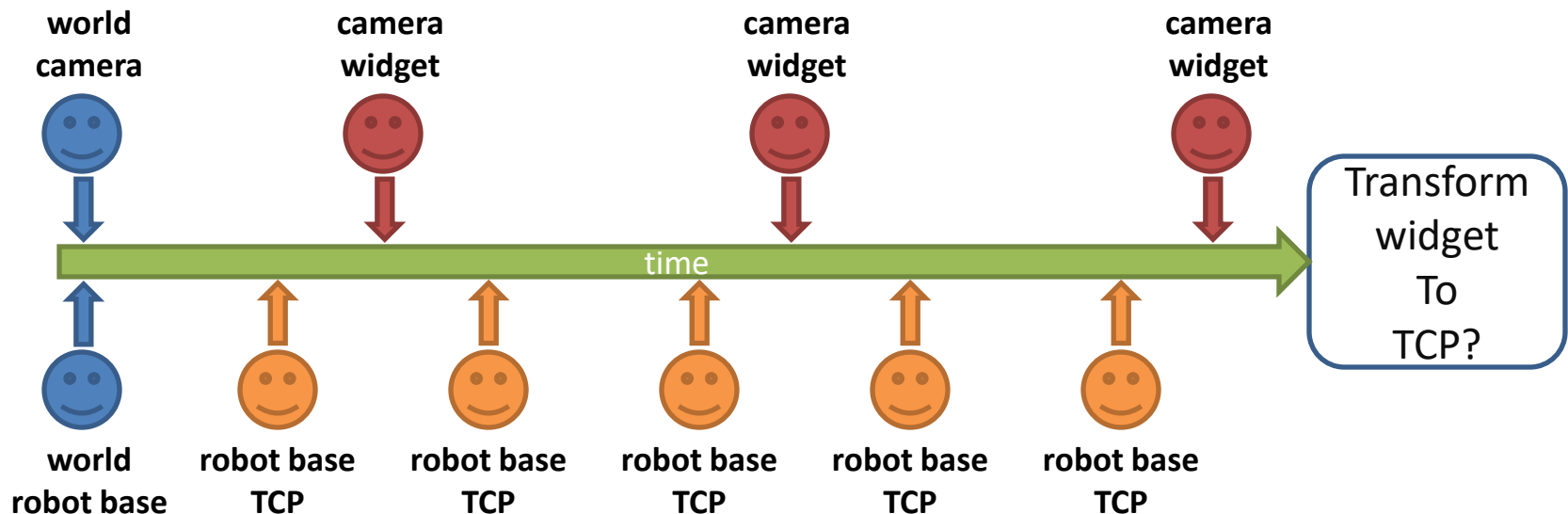
- TF is a **distributed framework** to track **coordinate frames**
- Each frame is related to at least one other frame





# TF: Time Sync

- TF tracks frame history
  - can be used to find transforms in the past!
  - essential for asynchronous / distributed system







- Each **node** using TF has its own **TransformListener**
  - listens to all TF messages, calculates relative transforms
  - Can try to transform in the past
  - Can only look as far back as it has been running

```
tf2_ros::Buffer buffer(node->get_clock());  
tf2_ros::TransformListener listener(buffer);  
  
geometry_msgs::msg::TransformStamped transform;  
transform = buffer.lookupTransform("target", "source", tf2::TimePointZero);
```

Result

Parent Frame  
("reference")

Child Frame  
("object")

Time

- Note confusing “target/source” naming convention
- Tf2::TimePointZero gives **latest** available transform





# TF Timing



- When requesting a transform, you must specify a **time:**

- Latest Received

```
lookupTransform("from", "to", tf2::TimePointZero)
```

- Current Time (will probably fail)

```
lookupTransform("from", "to", now)
```

- Current Time (wait for it to be available)

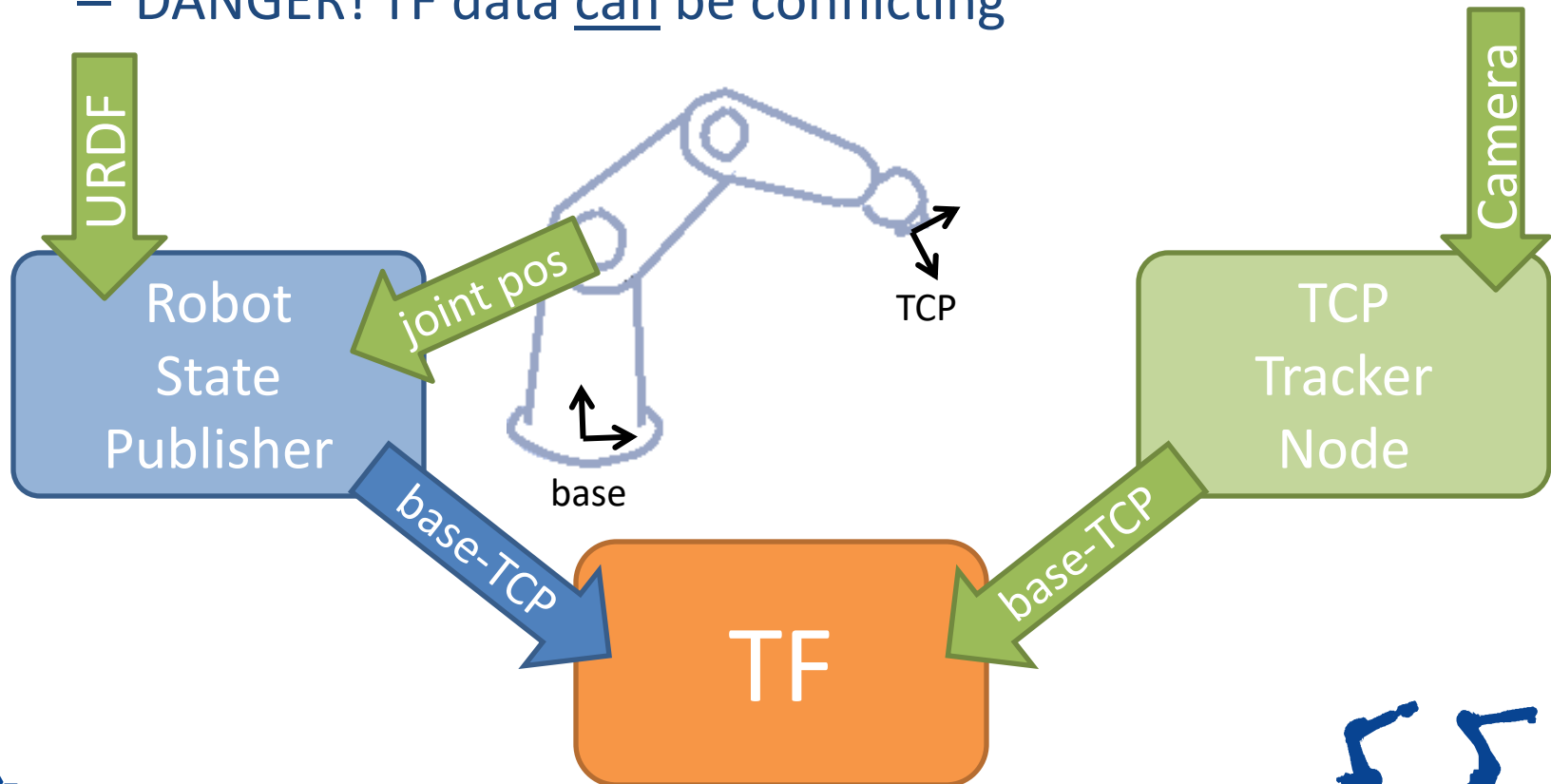
```
lookupTransform("from", "to", now, 50ms)
```





# TF: Sources

- A `robot_state_publisher` provides TF data from a **URDF**
- Nodes can also publish TF data
  - DANGER! TF data can be conflicting

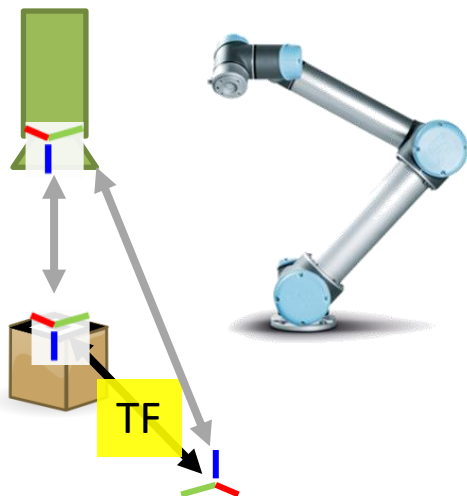




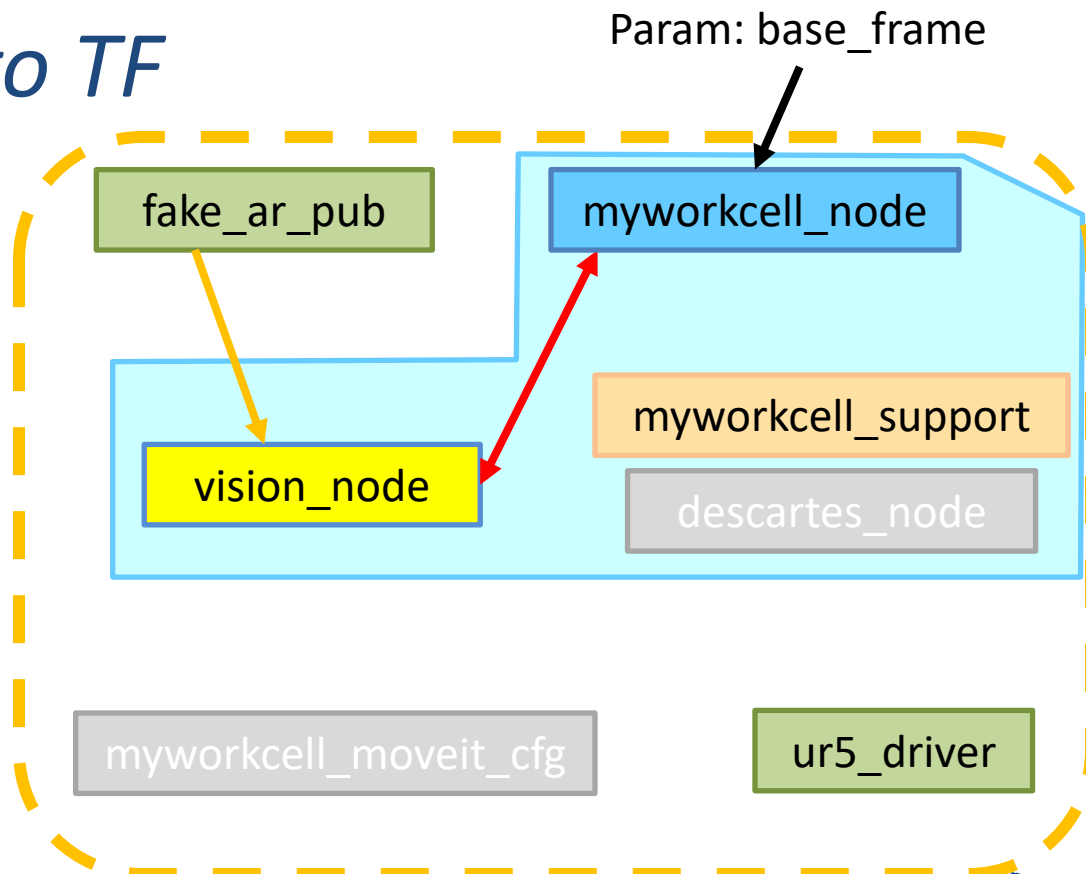
# Exercise 3.2

## Exercise 3.2

### *Introduction to TF*



world->target = world->camera  
\* camera->target



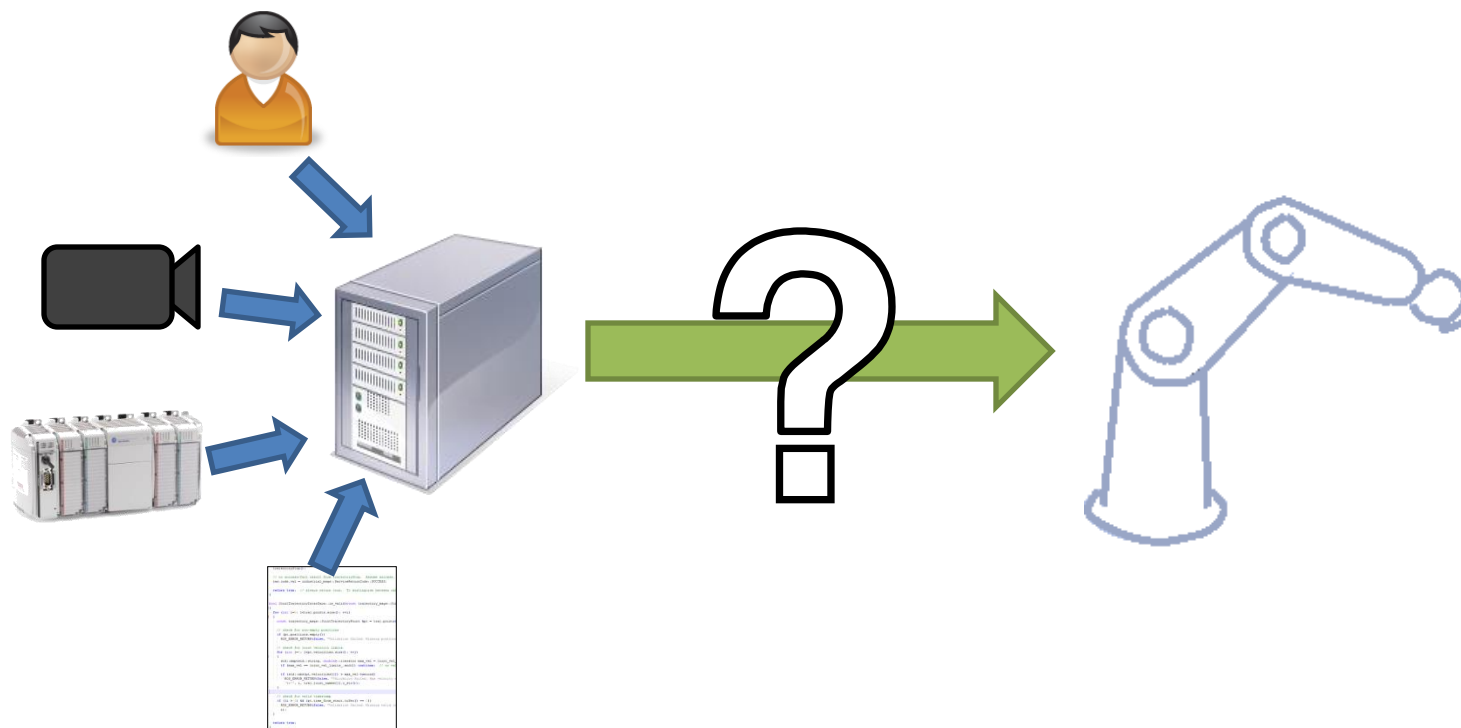


# Motion Planning in ROS (using MoveIt)



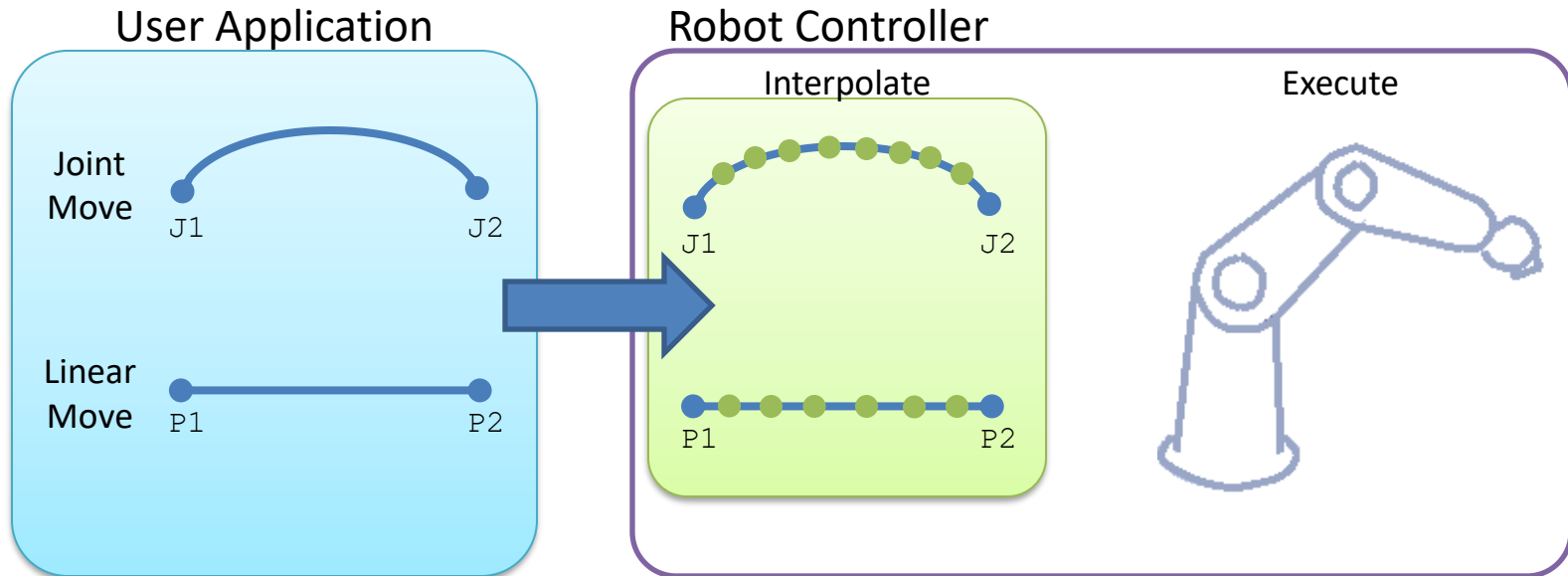


# Motion Planning in ROS





# Traditional Robot Programming

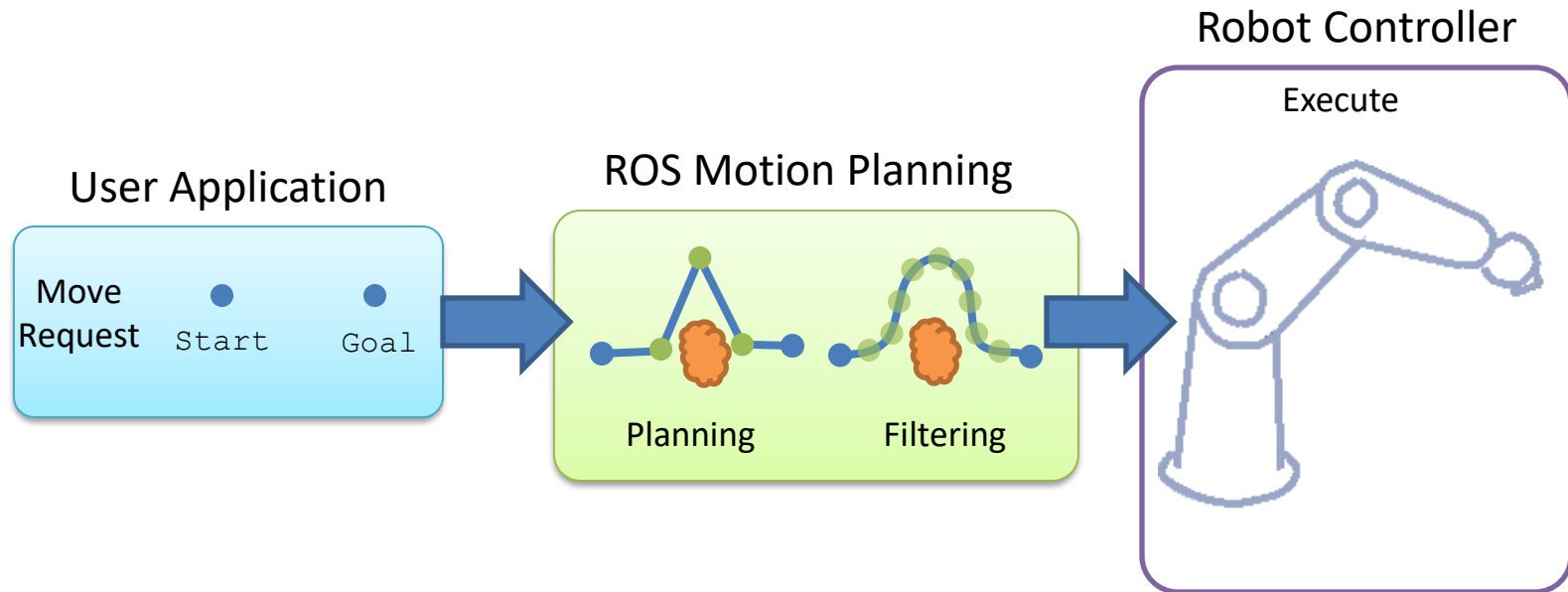


- Motion Types: *limited, but well-defined. One motion task.*
- Environment Model: *none, or extremely limited*





# ROS Motion Planning



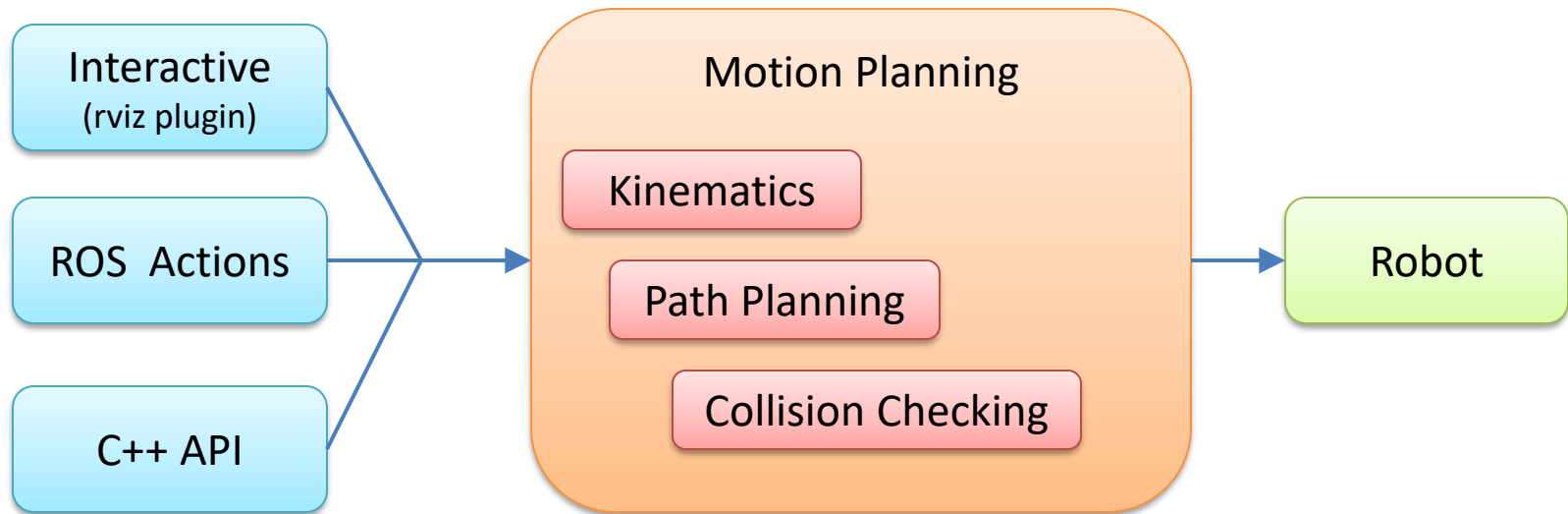
- **Motion Types:** *flexible, goal-driven, with constraints*  
*but minimal control over actual path*
- **Environment Model:** *yes (fixed CAD or sensor-driven)*





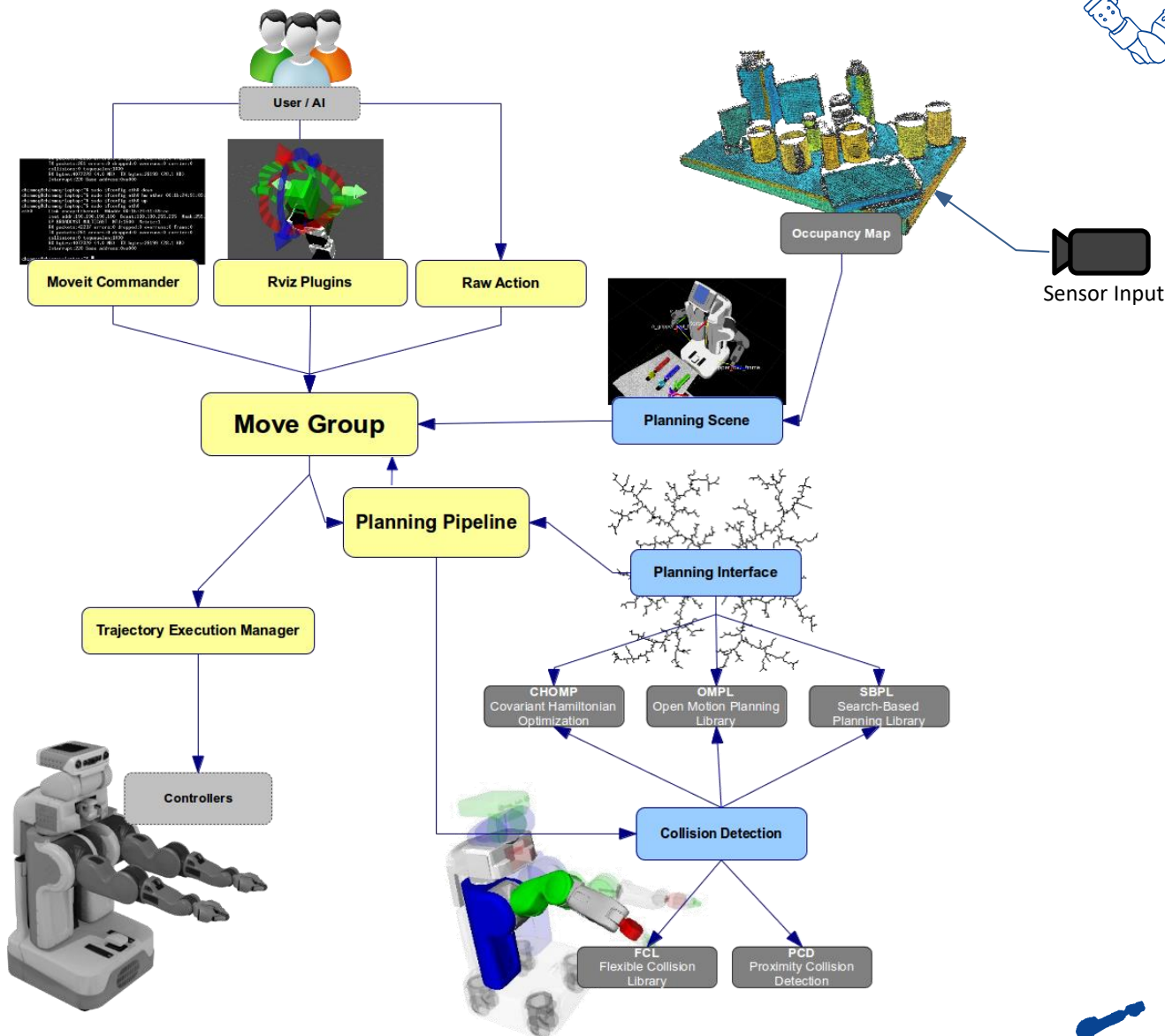


# Motion Planning Components



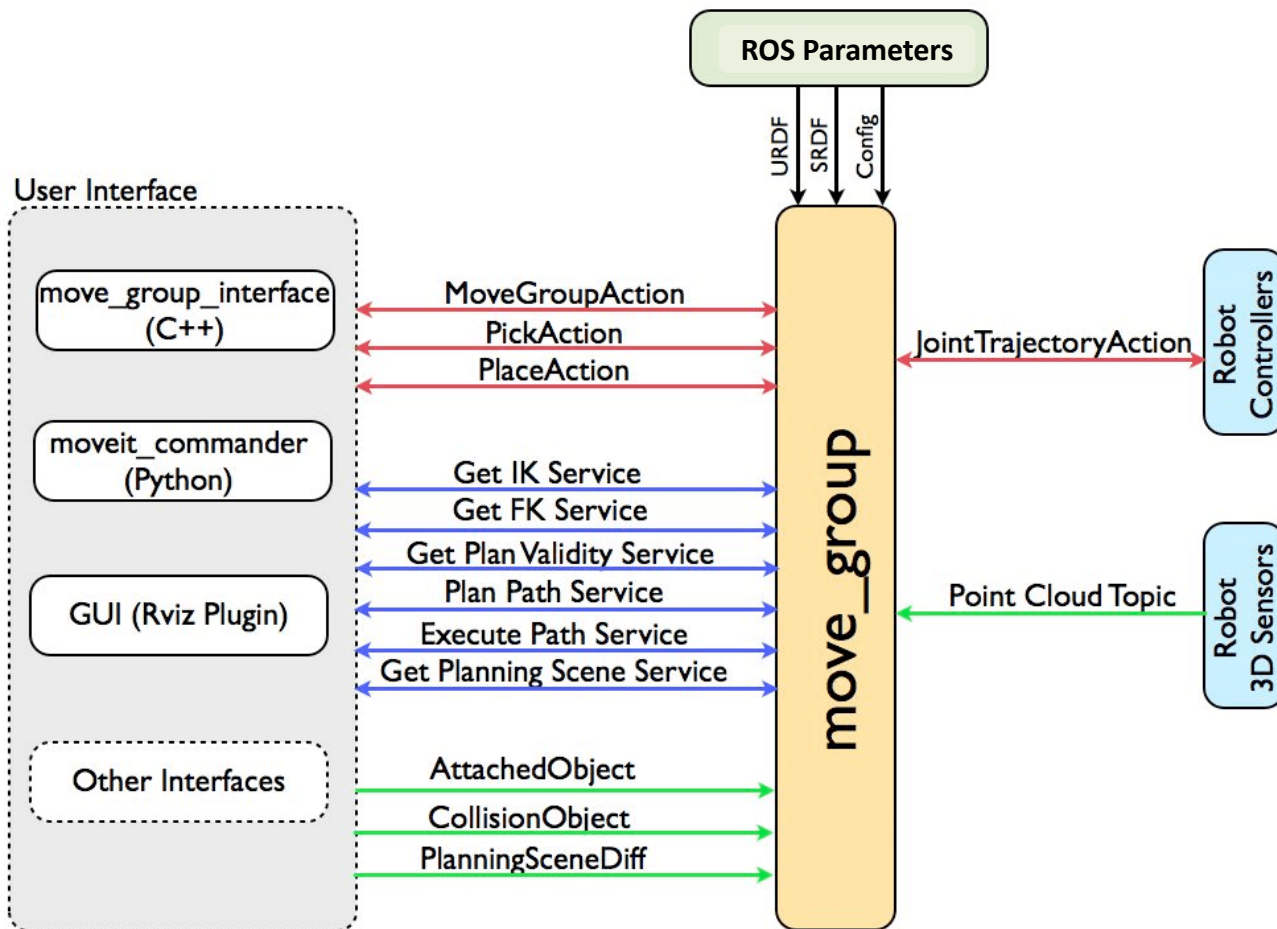


# MoveIt Components





# Movelt Nodes





**For each new robot model...**

**create a new Movelt! package**

- Kinematics
  - physical configuration, lengths, etc.
- Movelt! configuration
  - plugins, default parameter values
  - self-collision testing
  - pre-defined poses
- Robot connection
  - FollowJointTrajectory Action name





# Movelt! Package Contents



- A Movelt! Package...
  - includes all required nodes, config, launch files
    - motion planning, filtering, collision detection, etc.
  - is unique to each individual robot model
    - includes references to URDF robot data
  - uses a standard interface to robots
    - publish trajectory, listen to joint angles
  - can (optionally) include workcell geometry
    - e.g. for collision checking





# Create a MoveIt! Package



- Use the MoveIt! Setup Assistant
  - can create a new package or edit an existing one

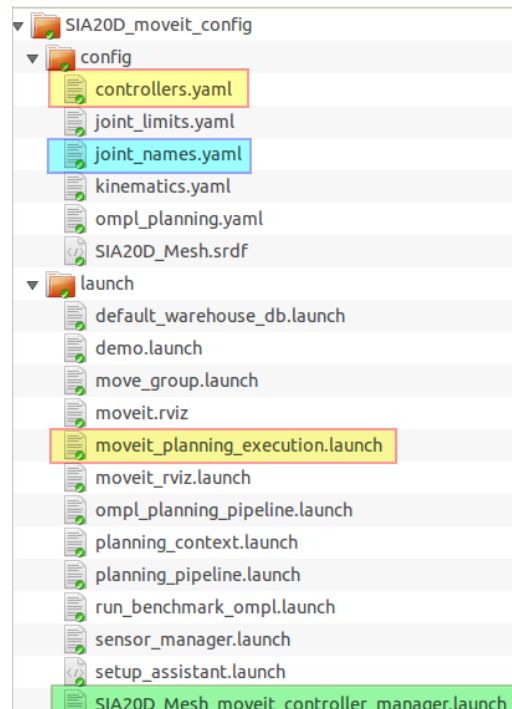




# Update MoveIt! Package



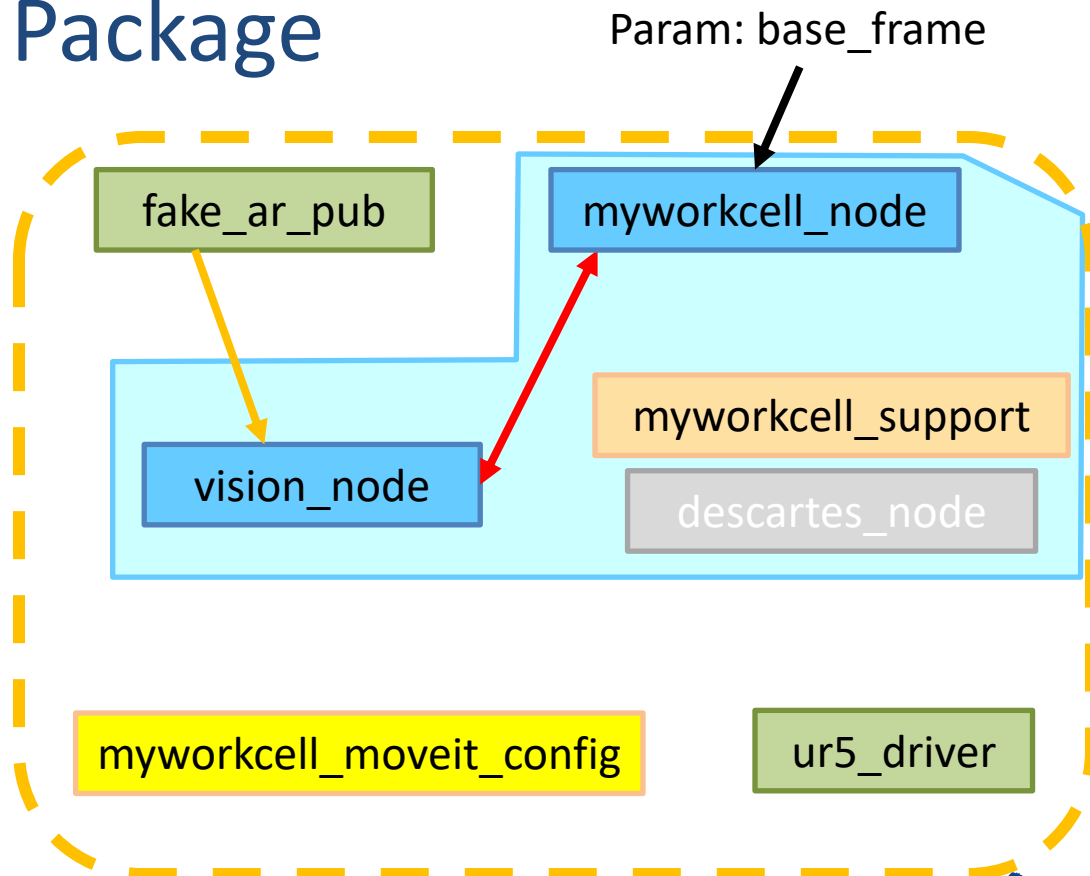
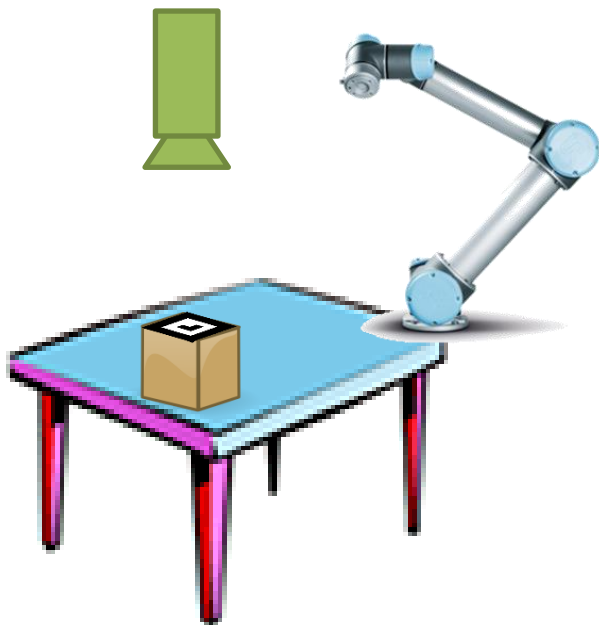
- Setup Assistant generates a *generic* package
  - missing config. data to connect to a specific robot
  - ROS-I robots use a *standard* interface\*





# Exercise 3.3

## Exercise 3.3: Create a MoveIt! Package









# Motion Planning using MoveIt!

1. Motion Planning using Rviz
2. Motion Planning using C++





## Display Options

▸ Scene Geometry	
▼ Scene Robot	
Show Robot Visual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Show Robot Collision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robot Alpha	1
Attached Body Color	 150; 50; 150
▸ Links	
▼ Planning Request	
Planning Group	manipulator
Show Workspace	<input type="checkbox"/>
Query Start State	<input type="checkbox"/>
Query Goal State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Interactive Marker Size	0
Start State Color	 0; 255; 0





## Planning Options

Context

Planning

Manipulation

Scene Objects

Stored Scenes

Stored States

Status

Joints

Commands

Query

Options

Plan

Execute

Plan & Execute

Stop

Clear octomap

Planning Group:

manipulator

Start State:

<current>

Goal State:

<current>

Path Constraints

None

Planning Time (s):

5.0

Planning Attempts:

10

Velocity Scaling:

0.10

Accel. Scaling:

0.10

☐ Use Cartesian Path

☒ Collision-aware IK

☐ Approx IK Solutions

☐ External Comm.

☐ Replanning

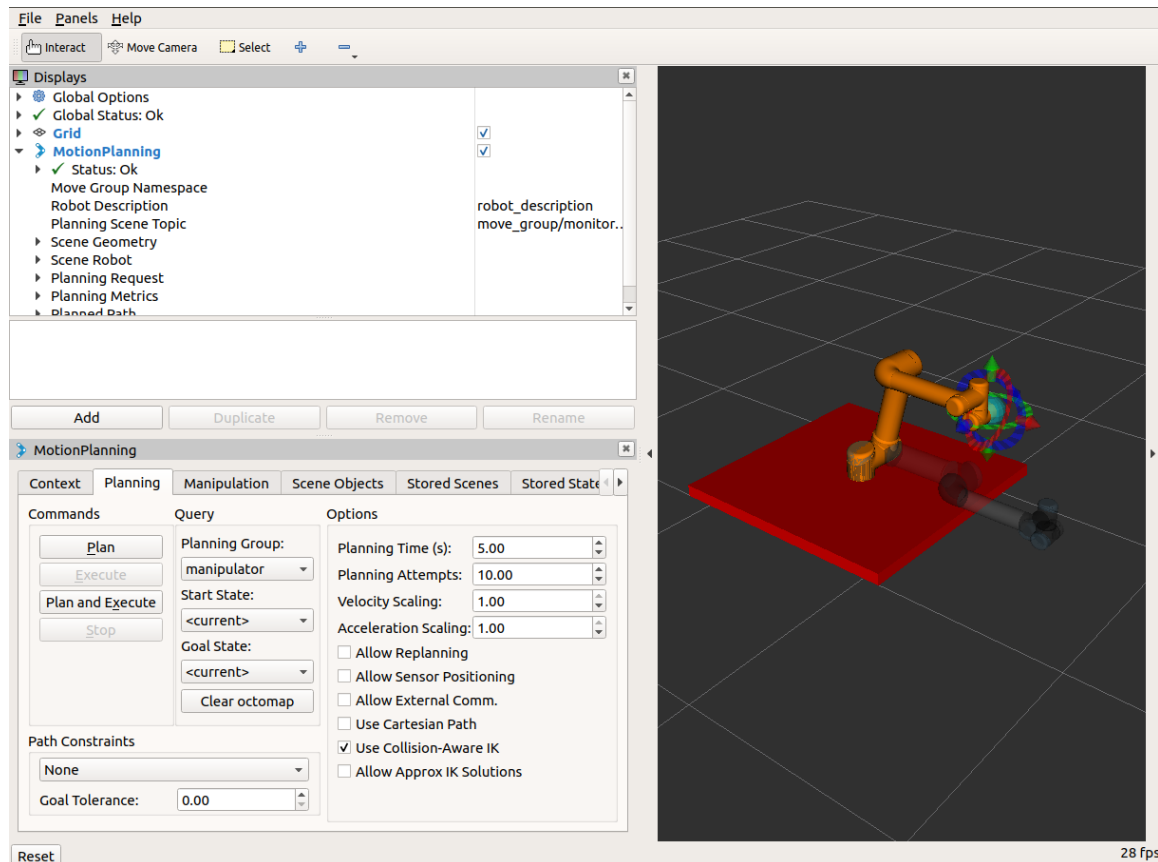
☐ Sensor Positioning





# Exercise 3.4

## Exercise 3.4: Motion Planning using RVIZ





# Review



## ROS

- URDF
- MoveIt
- Path Planners
- RViz Planning

## ROS-Industrial

- Robot Drivers
- Path Planners





# Questions?



- ROS-I Architecture
- Setup Assistant
- Robot Launch Files
- RViz Planning

