

CHAPTER 5

Programming with ROS

The previous chapter discussed the basics of the Robot Operating System, and in this chapter, you are going to program using ROS. The main programming languages that we are going to use are C++ and Python. We already discussed the basics of C++ and Python in Chapter 2 and Chapter 3. Those fundamental concepts can be applied here to start working with ROS. You will see examples in Python and in C++, so you get a fundamental idea about both languages.

The chapter covers creating a ROS workspace, ROS package and ROS nodes. After creating the package and basic ROS nodes, you will see how to program the turtlesim simulator from the previous chapter. Next, you are introduced to the Gazebo simulator and TurtleBot robot simulation, creating basic ROS nodes to move the TurtleBot in the simulation. Afterward, you learn how to interface and program an Arduino and Tiva-C Launchpad using ROS. These tutorials are very useful for when we create our own robot. At the end of the chapter, you see how to set up ROS and program it in the Raspberry Pi 3.

Programming Using ROS

We have already covered basic programming using C++ and Python. What does programming with ROS mean? It means that ROS provides some built-in functions to implement ROS capabilities. For example, if we want

to implement a new ROS topic, or a new ROS message, or a ROS service, we can simply call these ROS built-in functions to create it. We don't need to implement ROS features from scratch. The programs that use ROS built-in functions/APIs (application program interface) are called *ROS nodes*.

In this chapter, we create ROS nodes for different applications. The ROS wiki provides extensive documentation on creating ROS nodes. As a beginner, it may be difficult to understand most of the topics mentioned on the ROS wiki. This chapter gives you a brief look at them to get started with ROS programming.

There are some steps that we need to take before proceeding to ROS programming. The first step is to create a ROS workspace. The next section discusses the ROS workspace and how to create it.

Creating a ROS Workspace and Package

The first step in ROS development is the creation of the ROS workspace, which is where ROS packages are kept. We can create new packages, install existing packages, build and create new executables.

You must first create a ROS workspace folder. You can give it any name, and you can create it in any location. Normally, this is in the Ubuntu home folder.

At a new terminal, enter the following command. This creates a folder called `catkin_ws`, inside of which is another folder called `src`. The ROS workspace is also called the *catkin workspace*. You see more of catkin in the next section.

```
$ mkdir -p ~/catkin_ws/src
```

The name of the `src` folder shouldn't be changed. You can change the workspace folder name, however.

After entering the command, switch to the `src` folder by using the `cd` command.

```
$ cd catkin_ws/src
```

The following command initializes a new ROS workspace. If you are not initializing a workspace, you cannot create and build the packages properly.

```
$ catkin_init_workspace
```

After this command, you should see the message in Figure 5-1 on your terminal.

```
robot@robot-pc:~/catkin_ws/src$ catkin_init_workspace
Creating symlink "/home/robot/catkin_ws/src/CMakeLists.txt"
robot@robot-pc:~/catkin_ws/src$
robot@robot-pc:~/catkin_ws/src$
robot@robot-pc:~/catkin_ws/src$ ls
CMakeLists.txt
robot@robot-pc:~/catkin_ws/src$ █
```

Figure 5-1. The output of `catkin_init_workspace`

There is a `CMakeLists.txt` inside the `src` folder.

After initializing the catkin workspace, you can build the workspace. You can able it to build the workspace without any packages. To build the workspace, switch from the `catkin_ws/src` folder to the `catkin_ws` folder.

```
$ ~/catkin_ws/src$ cd ..
```

The command to build the catkin workspace is `catkin_make`.

```
$ ~/catkin_ws$ catkin_make
```

You get the following output after entering this command (see Figure 5-2).

```

-- Using CATKIN_ENABLE_TESTING: ON
-- Call enable_testing()
-- Using CATKIN_TEST_RESULTS_DIR: /home/robot/catkin_ws/build/test_resu
-- Looking for pthread.h
-- Looking for pthread.h - found
-- Looking for pthread_create
-- Looking for pthread_create - not found
-- Looking for pthread_create in pthreads
-- Looking for pthread_create in pthreads - not found
-- Looking for pthread_create in pthread
-- Looking for pthread_create in pthread - found
-- Found Threads: TRUE
-- Found gtest sources under '/usr/src/gtest': gtests will be built
-- Using Python nosetests: /usr/bin/nosetests-2.7
-- catkin 0.7.6
-- BUILD_SHARED_LIBS is on
-- Configuring done
-- Generating done
-- Build files have been written to: /home/robot/catkin_ws/build
####
#### Running command: "make -j4 -l4" in "/home/robot/catkin_ws/build"
####
robot@robot-pc:~/catkin_ws$

```

Figure 5-2. The `catkin_make` output

Now you can see a few folders in addition to the `src` folder (see Figure 5-3).



Figure 5-3. The `catkin_ws` folder after `catkin_make` command

More information about the building process is in the next section.

The `src` folder is where our packages are kept. If you want to create or build a package, you have to copy those packages to the `src` folder.

After creating the workspace, it is important thing to add the workspace environment. This means you have to set the workspace path so that the packages inside the workspace become accessible and visible. To do this, you have to do the following steps.

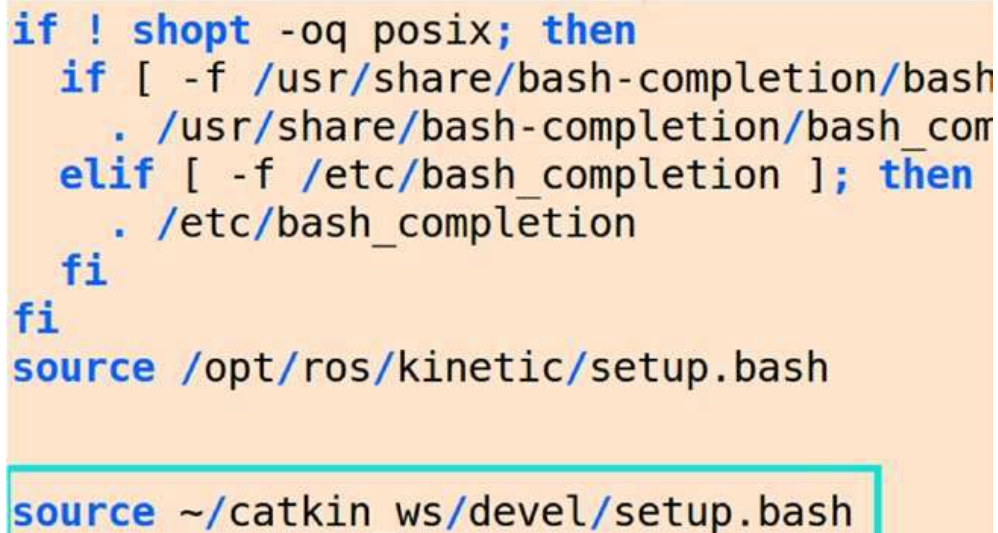
Open the `.bashrc` file in the home folder and add the following line at the end of the file.

At a terminal, switch to the home folder and select the `.bashrc` file.

```
$ gedit .bashrc
```

Add the following line at the end of `.bashrc` (see Figure 5-4).

```
source ~/catkin_ws/devel/setup.bash
```



```
if ! shopt -oq posix; then
  if [ -f /usr/share/bash-completion/bash_
    . /usr/share/bash-completion/bash_com
  elif [ -f /etc/bash_completion ]; then
    . /etc/bash_completion
  fi
fi
source /opt/ros/kinetic/setup.bash

source ~/catkin_ws/devel/setup.bash
```

Figure 5-4. Adding `catkin_ws` to `.bashrc` file

As you already know, the `.bashrc` script in the home folder executes when a new terminal session starts. So, the command inserted in the `.bashrc` file also executes.

`setup.bash` in the following command has variables to add to the Linux environment.

```
source ~/catkin_ws/devel/setup.bash
```

When we source this file, the workspace path is added in the current terminal session. Now when we use any terminal, we can access the packages inside this workspace.

Before discussing the creation of packages, we need to discuss the catkin build system in ROS. You get a better idea about the building process when you are aware of the catkin build system.

ROS Build System

Chapters 2 and 3 discussed the build system, which is nothing but tools to compile a set of source code and create target executables from it. The target can be an executable or a library. In ROS, there is a build system for compiling ROS packages. The name of the build system that we are using is *catkin* (<http://wiki.ros.org/catkin>). *catkin* is a custom build system made from the CMake build system and Python scripting. So why not directly use CMake? The answer is simple: building a set of ROS packages is complicated. The complexity increases with the number of packages and package dependencies. The catkin build system takes care of all these things.

You can read more about the catkin build system at http://wiki.ros.org/catkin/conceptual_overview.

ROS Catkin Workspace

We have created a catkin workspace, but didn't discuss how it works. The workspace has several folders. Let's look at the function of each folder.

src Folder

The `src` folder inside the catkin workspace folder is the place where you can create, or clone, new packages from repositories. ROS packages only build and create an executable when it is in the `src` folder. When we execute the `catkin_make` command from the workspace folder, it checks inside the `src` folder and build each packages.

build Folder

When we run the `catkin_make` command from the ROS workspace, the catkin tool creates some build files and intermediate cache CMake files inside the `build` folder. These cache files help prevent from rebuilding all the packages when running the `catkin_make` command; for example, if you build five packages, and then add a new package to the `src` folder, only the new package builds during the next `catkin_make` command. This is because of those cache files inside the `build` folder. If you delete the `build` folder, all the packages build again.

devel Folder

When we run the `catkin_make` command, each package is built, and if the build process is successful, the target executable is created. The executable is stored inside the `devel` folder, which has shell script files to add the current workspace to the ROS workspace path. We can access the current workspace packages only if we run this script. Generally, the following command is used to do this.

```
source ~/<workspace_name>/devel/setup.bash
```


We are adding this command in the `.bashrc` file, so that we can access the workspace packages in all terminal sessions. If you go through the procedures to set up the catkin workspace, you see these steps.

install Folder

After building the target executable locally, run the following command to install the executable.

```
$ catkin_make install
```

It has to execute from the ROS workspace folder. If you do this, you see the `install` folder in the workspace. This folder keeps the install target files. When we run the executable, it executes from the `install` folder.

There is more information about the catkin workspace at http://wiki.ros.org/catkin/workspaces#Catkin_Workspaces.

Creating a ROS Package

We are done creating the ROS workspace. Next, let's look at how to create a ROS package. The ROS package is where ROS nodes are organized—libraries and so forth. We can create a catkin ROS package by using the following command.

Syntax:

```
$ catkin_create_pkg ros_package_name package_dependencies
```

The command that we use to create the package is `catkin_create_pkg`. The first parameter for this command is the package name, and the dependencies of the package follow it; for example, we are going to create a package called `hello_world` with dependencies. We discuss more about the dependencies in the next section.

You have to execute the command from the `src` folder in the catkin workspace.


```
$ /catkin_ws/src$ catkin_create_pkg hello_world roscpp rospy
std_msgs
```

The output of this command is shown in Figure 5-5. This is how we create ROS packages.



```
robot@robot-pc:~/catkin_ws/src$ catkin create_pkg hello_world roscpp rospy std_msgs
Created file hello_world/CMakeLists.txt
Created file hello_world/package.xml
Created folder hello_world/include/hello_world
Created folder hello_world/src
Successfully created files in /home/robot/catkin_ws/src/hello_world. Please adjust the
e.xml.
robot@robot-pc:~/catkin_ws/src$
```

Figure 5-5. Output of `catkin_create_pkg` command

The structure of a ROS package is shown in Figure 5-6.



```
.
├── CMakeLists.txt -> /opt/ros/kinetic/share/
├── hello_world
│   ├── CMakeLists.txt
│   ├── include
│   │   └── hello_world
│   ├── package.xml
│   └── src
```

Figure 5-6. Output of `catkin_create_pkg` command

Inside the package is the `src` folder, `package.xml`, `CMakeLists.txt`, and the `include` folder.

- `CMakeLists.txt`: This file has all the commands to build the ROS source code inside the package and create the executable.

- `package.xml`: This is basically an XML file. It mainly contains the package dependencies, information, and so forth.
- `src`: The source code of ROS packages are kept in this folder. Normally, C++ files are kept in the `src` folder. If you want to keep Python scripts, you can create another folder called `scripts` inside the package folder.
- `include`: This folder contains the package header files. It can be automatically generated, or third-party library files go in it.

The next section discusses ROS client libraries, which are used to create ROS nodes.

Using ROS Client Libraries

We have covered various ROS concepts like topics, services, messages, and so forth. How do we implement these concepts? The answer is by using ROS client libraries. The ROS client libraries are a collection of code with functions to implement ROS concepts. We can simply include these library functions in our code to make it a ROS node. The client library saves development time because it provides the built-in functions to make a ROS application.

We can write ROS nodes in any programming language. If there is any ROS client for that programming language, it is easier to create ROS nodes; otherwise, we may need to implement our own ROS concepts.

The following are the main ROS client libraries.

- *roscpp*: This is the ROS client library for C++. It is widely used for developing ROS applications because of its high performance.

- *rospy*: This is the ROS client library for Python (<http://wiki.ros.org/rospy>). Its advantage is saving development time. We can create a ROS node in less time than with *roscpp*. It is ideal for quick prototyping applications, but performance is weaker than with *roscpp*. Most of the command line tools in ROS are coded using *rospy* such as *roslaunch*, *roscore* and so forth.
- *roslisp*: This is the ROS client library of the Lisp language. It is mainly used in motion planning libraries on ROS, but it is not as popular as *roscpp* and *rospy*.

There are also experimental client libraries, including *rojjava*, *roscppjs*, and *roslua*. The complete list of ROS client libraries is at <http://wiki.ros.org/Client%20Libraries>.

We will mainly work with *roscpp* and *rospy*. The next section shows a basic example of ROS nodes created using *roscpp* and *rospy*.

roscpp and rospy

This section discusses the various aspects of writing a node using client libraries such as *roscpp* and *rospy*. This includes the header files and modules used in ROS nodes, initializing a ROS node, publishing and subscribing a topic, and so forth.

Header Files and ROS Modules

When you write code in C++, the first section includes the header files. Similarly, when you write Python code, the first section imports Python modules. In this section, we look at the important headers files, and modules that we need to import into a ROS node.

To create a ROS C++ node, we have to include the following header files.

```
#include "ros/ros.h"
```

The `ros.h` has all the headers required to implement ROS functionalities. We can't create a ROS node without including this header file.

The next type of header file used in ROS nodes is a ROS message header. If we want to use a specific message type in our node, we have to include the message header file. ROS has some built-in message definition, and the user can also create a new message definition. There is a built-in message package in ROS called `std_msgs` that has a message definition of standard data types, such as `int`, `float`, `string`, and so forth. For example, if we want to include a string message in our code, we can use the following line of code.

```
#include "std_msgs/String.h"
```

Here, the first part is the package name and the next part is the message type name. If there is a custom message type, we can call it with the following syntax.

```
# include "msg_pkg_name/message_name.h"
```

The following are some of the messages in the `std_msgs` package.

```
# include "std_msgs/Int32.h"
# include "std_msgs/Int64.h"
```

The complete list of message types inside the `std_msgs` package is at http://wiki.ros.org/std_msgs.

In Python, we have to import modules to create a ROS node. The ROS module that we need to import is

```
import rospy
```

`rospy` has all the important ROS functions. To import a message type, we have to import the specific modules, like we did in C++.

The following is an example of importing a string message type in Python.

```
from std_msgs.msg import String
```

We have to use `package_name.msg` and import the required message type.

Initializing a ROS Node

Before starting any ROS node, the first function called initializes the node. This is a mandatory step in any ROS node.

In C++, we initialize using the following line of code.

```
int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    ros::init(argc, argv, "name_of_node")
    .....
}
```

After the `int main()` function, we have to include `ros::init()`, which initializes the ROS node. We can pass the `argc, argv` command-line arguments to the `init()` function and the name of the node. This is the ROS node name, and we can retrieve its list by using `rostopic list`.

In Python, we use the following line of code.

```
rospy.init_node('name_of_node', anonymous=True);
```

The first argument is the name of the node, and the second argument is `anonymous=True`, which means the node can run on multiple instances.

Printing Messages in a ROS Node

ROS provides APIs to log messages. These messages are readable string that convey the status of the node.

In C++, the following functions log the node's messages.

```
ROS_INFO(string_msg,args): Logging the information of node
ROS_WARN(string_msg,args): Logging warning of the node
ROS_DEBUG(string_msg ,args): Logging debug messages
ROS_ERROR(string_msg ,args): Logging error messages
ROS_FATAL(string_msg ,args): Logging Fatal messages
Eg: ROS_DEBUG("Hello %s", "World");
```

In Python, there are different functions for the logging operations.

```
rospy.logdebug(msg, *args)
rospy.logerr(msg, *args)
rospy.logfatal(msg, *args)
rospy.loginfo(msg, *args)
rospy.logwarn(msg, *args)
```

Creating a Node Handle

After initializing the node, we have to create a `NodeHandle` instance that starts the ROS node and other operations, like publishing/subscribing a topic. We are using the `ros::NodeHandle` instance to create those operations.

In C++, the following shows how to create an instance of `ros::NodeHandle`.

```
ros::NodeHandle nh;
```

The rest of the operations in the node use the `nh` instance. In Python, we don't need to create a handle; the `rospy` module internally handles it.

Creating a ROS Message Definition

Before publishing a topic, we have to create a ROS message definition. The message definition is created by using the following methods.

In C++, we can create an instance of a ROS message with the following line of code; for example, this is how we create an instance of `std_msgs/String`.

```
std_msgs::String msg;
```

After creating the instance of the ROS message, we can add the data by using the following line of code.

```
msg.data = "String data"
```

In Python, we use the following line of code to add data to the string message.

```
msg = String()
msg.data = "string data"
```

Publishing a Topic in ROS Node

This section shows how to publish a topic in a ROS node.

In C++, we use the following syntax.

```
ros::Publisher publisher_object = node_handle.advertise<ROS
message type >("topic_name",1000)
```

After creating the publisher object, the `publish()` command sends the ROS message through the topic.

```
publisher_object.publish(message)
```

Example:

```
ros::Publisher chatter_pub = nh.advertise<std_
msgs::String>("chatter", 1000);

chatter_pub.publish(msg);
```

In this example, `chatter_pub` is the ROS publisher instance, and it is going to publishing a topic with message type `std_msgs/String` and `chatter` as the topic name. The queue size is 1000.

In Python, the publishing syntax is as follows.

Syntax:

```
publisher_instance = rospy.Publisher('topic_name', message_
type, queue_size)
```


Example:

```
pub = rospy.Publisher('chatter', String, queue_size=10)
pub.publish(hello_str)
```

This example publishes a topic called `chatter` with a `std_msgs/String` message type and a `queue_size` of 10.

Subscribing a Topic in ROS Node

When publishing a topic, we have to create a message type and need to send through the topic. When subscribing a topic, the message is received from the topic.

In C++, the following is the syntax of subscribing a topic.

```
ros::Subscriber subscriber_obj = nodehandle.subscribe
("topic_name", 1000, callback function)
```

When subscribing a topic, we don't need to mention the topic message type, but we do need to mention the topic name and a callback function. The callback function is a user-defined function that executes once a ROS message is received over the topic. Inside the callback, we can manipulate the ROS message—print it or make a decision based on the message data. (Callback is discussed in the next section.)

The following is a subscription example of the "chatter" topic with the "chatterCallback" callback function.

```
ros::Subscriber sub = n.subscribe("chatter", 1000,
chatterCallback);
```

The following shows how to subscribe a topic in Python.

```
rospy.Subscriber("topic_name",message_type,callback funtion name")
```

The following shows how to subscribe the "chatter" topic with the message type as string, and a callback function. In Python, we have to mention the message type along with the Subscriber() function.

```
rospy.Subscriber("chatter", String, callback)
```

Writing the Callback Function in ROS Node

When we subscribe a ROS topic and a message arrives in that topic, the callback function is triggered. You may have seen the mention of a callback function in the subscriber function. The following is the syntax and an example of callback function in C++.

```
void callback_name(const ros_message_const_pointer &pointer)
{
    // Access data
    pointer->data
}
```

The following shows how to handle a ROS string message and print the data.

```
void chatterCallback(const std_msgs::String::ConstPtr& msg)
{
    ROS_INFO("I heard: [%s]", msg->data.c_str());
}
```

The following shows how to write a callback in Python. It's very similar to a Python function, which has an argument that holds the message data.

```
def callback(data):
    rospy.loginfo(rospy.get_caller_id() + "I heard %s", data.data)
```

The ROS Spin Function in ROS Node

After starting the subscription or publishing, we may have to call a function to process the request to subscribe and publish. In a C++ node, the `ros::spinOnce()` function should be called after publishing a topic, and the `ros::spin()` function should be called if you are only subscribing a topic. If you are doing both, use the `spinOnce()` function.

In Python, there is no `spin()` function, but you can use the `rospy.sleep()` function after publishing, or the `rospy.spin()` function if there is only subscription of the topic.

The ROS Sleep Function in ROS Node

If we want to make a constant rate inside a loop that is inside a node, we can use `ros::Rate`. We can create an instance of `ros::Rate` and mention the desired rate that we want. After creating the instance, we have to call the `sleep()` function inside it to get the rate in effect.

The following is an example of getting 10 Hz in C++.

```
ros::Rate r(10); // 10 hz

r.sleep();
```

The following is how to do it in Python.

```
rate = rospy.Rate(10) # 10hz

rate.sleep()
```

Setting and Getting a ROS Parameter

In C++, we use the following line of code to access a parameter in our code. Basically, we have to declare a variable and use the `getParam()` function inside the `node_handle` to access the desired parameter.

```
std::string global_name;
```

```
if (nh.getParam("/global_name", global_name))
{
    ...
}
```

The following shows how to set a ROS parameter. The name and the value should be mentioned inside the `setParam()` function.

```
nh.setParam("/global_param", 5);
```

In Python, we can do the same thing using the following line of code.

```
global_name = rospy.get_param("/global_name")
rospy.set_param('~private_int', '2')
```

The Hello World Example Using ROS

In this section, you are going to create a basic package called `hello_world`, and a publisher node and a subscriber node to send a “Hello World” string message. You also learn how to write a node in C++ and Python.

Creating a `hello_world` Package

In ROS, the programs organized as packages. So we have to create a ROS package before writing any program.

To create a ROS package, we have to give a name of the package, then the dependent packages which help to compile the programs inside the package. For example, if your package has C++ program, you have to add 'roscpp' as dependency and if it is python, you have to add 'rospy' as dependency.

Before creating the package, first switch to the `src` folder.

```
$ catkin_ws/src$ catkin_create_pkg hello_world roscpp rospy
std_msgs
```

Figure 5-7 shows the output when we execute this command.

```
robot@robot-pc:~/catkin_ws/src$ catkin_create_pkg hello_world roscpp rospy std_msgs
Created file hello_world/CMakeLists.txt
Created file hello_world/package.xml
Created folder hello_world/include/hello_world
Created folder hello_world/src
Successfully created files in /home/robot/catkin_ws/src/hello_world. Please adjust 1
robot@robot-pc:~/catkin_ws/src$
```

Figure 5-7. The output of `catkin_create_pkg`

Now we can explore the different files created. The first important file is `package.xml`. As discussed, this file has information about the package and its dependencies.

The `package.xml` file definition is shown in Figure 5-8. Actually, when we create the package, it also has some commented code. All comments have been removed here to make it cleaner.

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<package>
  <name>hello_world</name>
  <version>0.0.0</version>
  <description>The hello_world package</description>
  <maintainer email="robot@todo.todo">robot</maintainer>
  <license>TODO</license>

  <buildtool_depend>catkin</buildtool_depend>
  <build_depend>roscpp</build_depend>
  <build_depend>rospy</build_depend>
  <build_depend>std_msgs</build_depend>
  <run_depend>roscpp</run_depend>
  <run_depend>rospy</run_depend>
  <run_depend>std_msgs</run_depend>

  <export>
  </export>
</package>
```

Figure 5-8. The `package.xml` definition

You can edit this file and add dependencies, package information, and other information to the package. You can learn more about `package.xml` at <http://wiki.ros.org/catkin/package.xml>.

Figure 5-9 shows what the `CMakeLists.txt` file looks like.

```
cmake_minimum_required(VERSION 2.8.3)
project(hello_world)

find_package(catkin REQUIRED COMPONENTS
  roscpp
  rospy
  std_msgs
)

catkin_package()

include_directories(
  ${catkin_INCLUDE_DIRS}
)
```

Figure 5-9. *The CMakeLists.txt definition*

In this file, the minimum version of CMake required to build the package and the project name is at the top of the file.

The `find_package()` finds the necessary dependencies of this package. If these packages are not available, we can't able to build this package. The `catkin_package()` is a catkin-provide CMake macro used for specifying catkin-specific information to the build system.

You can learn more about `CMakeLists.txt` at <http://wiki.ros.org/catkin/CMakeLists.txt>.

A good reference for creating a ROS package is at <http://wiki.ros.org/ROS/Tutorials/catkin/CreatingPackage>.

Creating a ROS C++ Node

After creating the package, the next step is to create the ROS nodes. The C++ code is kept in the `src` folder.

The following is the first ROS node. It's a C++ node to publish a "Hello World" string message. You can save it under `src/talker.cpp`.

```
#include "ros/ros.h"
#include "std_msgs/String.h"
#include <sstream>

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    ros::init(argc, argv, "talker");

    ros::NodeHandle n;

    ros::Publisher chatter_pub = n.advertise<std_
msgs::String>("chatter", 1000);

    ros::Rate loop_rate(10);

    int count = 0;

    while (ros::ok())
    {
        std_msgs::String msg;

        std::stringstream ss;

        ss << "hello world " << count;

        msg.data = ss.str();

        ROS_INFO("%s", msg.data.c_str());

        chatter_pub.publish(msg);

        ros::spinOnce();
    }
}
```



```

    loop_rate.sleep();
    ++count;
}
return 0;
}

```

The code is self-explanatory. Basically, it creates a new string message instance and a publisher instance. After creating both, it adds data to the string message along with a count. After adding the data, it publishes the topic, `/chatter`. You can also see the usage of the `ros::spinOnce()` function here. The code executes until you press Ctrl+C.

Next, you see the `listener.cpp`, which subscribes the topic published by `talker.cpp`. After getting data from the topic, it prints that message.

```

#include "ros/ros.h"
#include "std_msgs/String.h"

void chatterCallback(const std_msgs::String::ConstPtr& msg)
{
    ROS_INFO("I heard: [%s]", msg->data.c_str());
}

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    ros::init(argc, argv, "listener");
    ros::NodeHandle n;
    ros::Subscriber sub = n.subscribe("chatter", 1000, chatterCallback);
    ros::spin();
    return 0;
}

```

In `listener.cpp`, the "chatter" topic is subscribing and registering a callback function for the topic, which is `chatterCallback`. The callback is defined at the beginning of the code. Whenever a message comes to the "chatter" topic, this callback is executed. Inside the callback, the data in the message is printed.

`ros::spin()` executes the subscribe callbacks and helps the node remain in a wait state, so it won't quit until you press Ctrl+C.

Editing the CMakeLists.txt File

After saving the two files in the `hello_world/src` folder, the nodes need to be compiled to create the executable. To do this, we have to edit the `CMakeLists.txt` file, which is not too complicated. We need to add four lines of code to `CMakeLists.txt`. Figure 5-10 shows the additional lines of code to insert.

```
include_directories(
  ${catkin_INCLUDE_DIRS}
)

add_executable(talker src/talker.cpp)
target_link_libraries(talker
  ${catkin_LIBRARIES}
)

add_executable(listener src/listener.cpp)
target_link_libraries(listener
  ${catkin_LIBRARIES}
)
```

Figure 5-10. Adding building instructions inside `CMakeLists.txt`

You can see that we are adding `add_executable()` and `target_link_libraries()` to `CMakeLists.txt`. `add_executable()` creates the executable from the source code. The first parameter is the executable name, which links with the libraries. If these two processes are successful, we get executable nodes.

Building C++ Nodes

After saving `CMakeLists.txt`, we can build the source code. The command to build the nodes is `catkin_make`. Just switch to the workspace folder and execute the `catkin_make` command.

To switch to the `catkin_ws` folder, assume that the workspace is in the home folder.

```
$ cd ~/catkin_ws
```

Executing the `catkin_make` command to build the nodes

```
$ catkin_make
```

If everything is correct, you get a message saying that the build was successful (see Figure 5-11).

```
Scanning dependencies of target listener
Scanning dependencies of target talker
[ 25%] Building CXX object hello_world/CMakeFiles/listener.dir/src/listener.cpp.o
[ 50%] Building CXX object hello_world/CMakeFiles/talker.dir/src/talker.cpp.o
[ 75%] Linking CXX executable /home/robot/catkin_ws/devel/lib/hello_world/talker
[100%] Linking CXX executable /home/robot/catkin_ws/devel/lib/hello_world/listener
[100%] Built target listener
[100%] Built target talker
robot@robot-pc:~/catkin_ws$
```

Figure 5-11. Building messages in the terminal

So we have successfully built the nodes. Now what? We can execute these nodes, right? That is covered in the next section.

Executing C++ Nodes

After building the nodes, the executables are generated inside the `catkin_ws/devel/lib/hello_world/` folder (see Figure 5-12).



Figure 5-12. *Generated executable*

After creating the executable, we can run it on a Linux terminal.

Open three terminals, and execute each command one by one.

Starting roscore

```
$ roscore
```

The following command starts the talker node. We can use the `roslaunch` command to start the node.

```
$ roslaunch hello_world talker
```

The node prints messages on the terminal. Check the list of ROS topics in the system by using the following command.

```
$ rostopic list
```

You see the following topics.

```
/chatter
/rosout
/rosout_agg
```

'chatter' is the topic published by the talker node. The /rosout topics are for logging purposes. It start publishing when we execute the roscore command.

The listener node can start in another terminal.

```
$ rosrn hello_world listener
```

Figure 5-13 shows the message data from the /chatter topic.

```
PARAMETERS
* /rostdistro: kinetic
* /rosversion: 1.12.7

NODES
auto-starting new master
process[master]: started with pid [4788]
ROS_MASTER_URI=http://robot-pc:11311/

setting /run_id to dea51b88-0e99-11e8-af60-080027c6ff27
process[rosout-1]: started with pid [4801]
started core service [/rosout]

robot@robot-pc:~$ rosrn hello_world talker
[ INFO] [1518291487.561201049]: hello world 0
[ INFO] [1518291487.662599248]: hello world 1
[ INFO] [1518291487.761577638]: hello world 2
[ INFO] [1518291487.862540060]: hello world 3
[ INFO] [1518291487.961661065]: hello world 4
[ INFO] [1518291488.061997374]: hello world 5
[ INFO] [1518291488.161413663]: hello world 6
[ INFO] [1518291488.261661379]: hello world 7
[ INFO] [1518291488.361571420]: hello world 8
[ INFO] [1518291488.461965544]: hello world 9
[ INFO] [1518291488.561633123]: hello world 10
[ INFO] [1518291488.661921779]: hello world 11
[ INFO] [1518291488.761608416]: hello world 12

robot@robot-pc:~$ rosrn hello_world listener
[ INFO] [1518291487.863502718]: I heard: [hello world 3]
[ INFO] [1518291487.961958201]: I heard: [hello world 4]
[ INFO] [1518291488.062417338]: I heard: [hello world 5]
[ INFO] [1518291488.161754224]: I heard: [hello world 6]
[ INFO] [1518291488.262099340]: I heard: [hello world 7]
[ INFO] [1518291488.361963797]: I heard: [hello world 8]
[ INFO] [1518291488.462304322]: I heard: [hello world 9]
[ INFO] [1518291488.561988817]: I heard: [hello world 10]
[ INFO] [1518291488.662334647]: I heard: [hello world 11]
[ INFO] [1518291488.761864631]: I heard: [hello world 12]
[ INFO] [1518291488.862494290]: I heard: [hello world 13]
[ INFO] [1518291488.961657606]: I heard: [hello world 14]
[ INFO] [1518291489.061816800]: I heard: [hello world 15]
[ INFO] [1518291489.161825396]: I heard: [hello world 16]
[ INFO] [1518291489.262011120]: I heard: [hello world 17]
[ INFO] [1518291489.361945019]: I heard: [hello world 18]
[ INFO] [1518291489.462888386]: I heard: [hello world 19]
[ INFO] [1518291489.562698356]: I heard: [hello world 20]
[ INFO] [1518291489.662093096]: I heard: [hello world 21]
[ INFO] [1518291489.761660963]: I heard: [hello world 22]
[ INFO] [1518291489.862041715]: I heard: [hello world 23]
[ INFO] [1518291489.961789634]: I heard: [hello world 24]
[ INFO] [1518291490.061721203]: I heard: [hello world 25]
[ INFO] [1518291490.161883229]: I heard: [hello world 26]
[ INFO] [1518291490.261879144]: I heard: [hello world 27]
[ INFO] [1518291490.361822851]: I heard: [hello world 28]
[ INFO] [1518291490.461525109]: I heard: [hello world 29]
[ INFO] [1518291490.561500742]: I heard: [hello world 30]
```

Figure 5-13. Output of talker and listener C++ nodes

You can close each terminal by pressing the Ctrl+C key combination.

Next, we look at the talker and listener nodes in Python.

Creating Python Nodes

We can make a folder called `script` inside the package, and we can keep the Python scripts inside this folder (`scripts/talker.py`). The first program that we are going to discuss is `talker.py`.

```
import rospy
from std_msgs.msg import String

def talker():

    rospy.init_node('talker', anonymous=True)
    pub = rospy.Publisher('chatter', String, queue_size=10)
    rate = rospy.Rate(10) # 10hz

    while not rospy.is_shutdown():
        hello_str = "hello world %s" % rospy.get_time()
        rospy.loginfo(hello_str)
        pub.publish(hello_str)
        rate.sleep()

if __name__ == '__main__':
    try:
        talker()
    except rospy.ROSInterruptException:
        pass
```

In the `talker.py` code, in the beginning, we can see, we are importing the `rospy` module and `ros` message modules. In the `talker()` function, we can see the initialization of ROS node, the creation of a new ROS publisher. After initializing the node, we are using a `while` loop to publish a string message called “Hello World” to the `/chatter` topic. The working of this node is same as `talker.cpp` that we already discussed.

The subscribing node, called `listener.py`, should be kept inside `scripts/` `listener.py`.

```
import rospy
from std_msgs.msg import String

def callback(data):
    rospy.loginfo(rospy.get_caller_id() + "I heard %s", data.data)

def listener():

    # In ROS, nodes are uniquely named. If two nodes with the same
    # name are launched, the previous one is kicked off. The
    # anonymous=True flag means that rospy will choose a unique
    # name for our 'talker' node so that multiple talkers can
    # run simultaneously.
    rospy.init_node('listener', anonymous=True)

    rospy.Subscriber("chatter", String, callback)

    # spin() simply keeps python from exiting until this node
    # is stopped
    rospy.spin()

if __name__ == '__main__':
    listener()
```

The node is similar to `listener.cpp`. We are initializing the node and creating a subscriber on the `/chatter` topic. After subscribing the topic, it waits for ROS messages. The waiting is done with the `rospy.spin()` function. Inside the `callback()` function, the message is printed.

Executing Python Nodes

In this section, we see how to execute the nodes. There is no need to compile the Python nodes. We can just execute it using the following commands. You can see the output of the commands from Figure 5-14.

Start the roscore

```
$ roscore
```

Start the talker.py

```
$ rosrun hello_world talker.py
```

Start the listener.py

```
$ rosrun hello_world listener.py
```



```

PARAMETERS
 * /roscout: kinetic
 * /rosversion: 1.12.7

NODES
auto-starting new master
process[master]: started with pid [4788]
ROS_MASTER_URI=http://robot-pc:11311/

setting /run_id to dea51b88-0e99-11e8-af60-080027c6ff27
process[roscout-1]: started with pid [4801]
started core service [/roscout]

robot@robot-pc:~$ roslaunch hello_world talker.py
[INFO] [1518295579.732998]: hello world 1518295579.73
[INFO] [1518295579.832843]: hello world 1518295579.83
[INFO] [1518295579.932442]: hello world 1518295579.93
[INFO] [1518295580.032103]: hello world 1518295580.03
[INFO] [1518295580.132743]: hello world 1518295580.13

robot@robot-pc:~$ roslaunch hello_world listener.py
[INFO] [1518295579.833867]: /listener_5226_1518295573909I
heard hello world 1518295579.83
[INFO] [1518295579.933049]: /listener_5226_1518295573909I
heard hello world 1518295579.93
[INFO] [1518295580.033081]: /listener_5226_1518295573909I
heard hello world 1518295580.03
[INFO] [1518295580.134534]: /listener_5226_1518295573909I
heard hello world 1518295580.13

```

Figure 5-14. Output of talker and listener Python nodes

Creating Launch Files

This section discusses how to write launch files for C++ and Python nodes. The advantage of ROS launch files is that we can run any number of nodes in a single command.

We can create a folder called launch inside the package and keep the launch files in that folder.

The following is `talker_listener.launch`, which can run C++ executables.

```
<launch>
  <node name="listener_node" pkg="hello_world" type="listener"
    output="screen"/>
  <node name="talker_node" pkg="hello_world" type="talker"
    output="screen"/>
</launch>
```

This launch file can run the talker and listener nodes in one shot. The package name of the node is in the `pkg=` field and the name of the executable is in the `type=` field. You can assign any name to the node. It is better if it is similar to the executable name.

After saving the launch file inside the launch folder, you may have to change the permission of the executable.

The following shows how to do that.

```
$ hello_world/launch$ sudo chmod +x talker_listener.launch
```

The following is the command to execute this launch file. We can execute it from any terminal path.

```
$ roslaunch hello_world talker_listener.launch
```

After the `roslaunch` command, use the package name and then the launch file name.

Figure 5-15 shows the output.

```

listener_node (hello_world/listener)
talker_node (hello_world/talker)

auto-starting new master
process[master]: started with pid [5635]
ROS_MASTER_URI=http://localhost:11311

setting /run_id to 1736ac68-0ea5-11e8-af60-080027c6ff27
process[rosout-1]: started with pid [5648]
started core service [/rosout]
process[listener_node-2]: started with pid [5656]
process[talker_node-3]: started with pid [5670]
[ INFO] [1518296286.432156336]: hello world 0
[ INFO] [1518296286.532936503]: hello world 1
[ INFO] [1518296286.632730963]: hello world 2
[ INFO] [1518296286.733540586]: hello world 3
[ INFO] [1518296286.733994769]: I heard: [hello world 3]
[ INFO] [1518296286.833653567]: hello world 4
[ INFO] [1518296286.834120072]: I heard: [hello world 4]
[ INFO] [1518296286.932997644]: hello world 5
[ INFO] [1518296286.933576537]: I heard: [hello world 5]
[ INFO] [1518296287.032813044]: hello world 6
[ INFO] [1518296287.033458823]: I heard: [hello world 6]
[ INFO] [1518296287.133145129]: hello world 7

```

Figure 5-15. Output of *talker_listener.launch* file

To launch the Python nodes, use the following launch file. You can save it as `launch/talker_listener_python.launch`.

```

<launch>
  <node name="listener_node" pkg="hello_world" type="listener.py"
    output="screen"/>

  <node name="talker_node" pkg="hello_world" type="talker.py"
    output="screen"/>
</launch>

```

After saving it, change the permissions of the file too.

```
$ hello_world/launch$ sudo chmod +x talker_listener_python.launch
```

Then execute the launch file using the `roslaunch` command.

```
$ roslaunch hello_world talker_listener_python.launch
```

The output is the same as with the C++ nodes. We can stop the launch file by pressing Ctrl+C in the terminal in which the launch file is running.

Visualizing a Computing Graph

Do you want to see what's happening when the launch files are executing? The `rqt_graph` GUI tool visualizes the ROS computation graph.

Use any of the launch files that we created in the previous section.

```
$ roslaunch hello_world talker_listener.launch
```

And in another terminal, run the following.

```
$ rqt_graph
```

Figure 5-16 shows the output of this GUI tool.

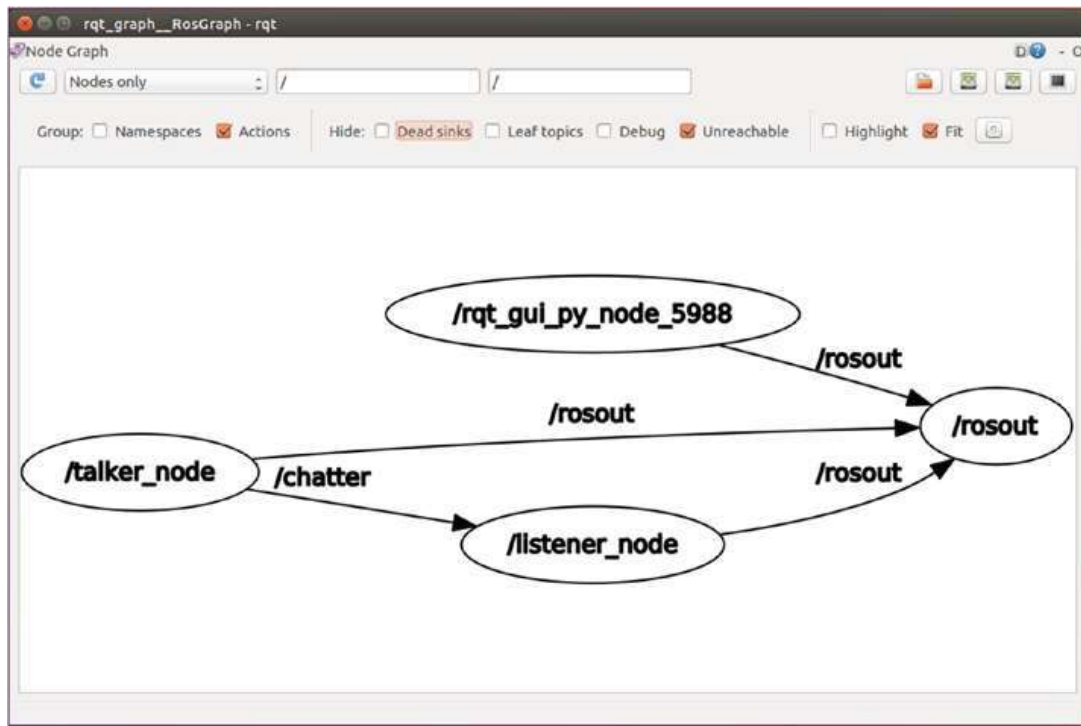


Figure 5-16. Output of `rqt_graph` tool

In the graph, you see `talker_node`, which is the name given to `talker` in the launch file. `listener_node` is the name of the listener node. `/chatter` is the topic published by the `talker_node`. It is subscribed by the `listener_node`.

All the debug messages from these two nodes are going to `/rosout`. The debug messages are message that we printed using ROS debug functions (<http://wiki.ros.org/roscpp/Overview/Logging>). We have already discussed those functions. The `/rqt_gui` node is also sending debug statements to `/rosout`.

This is how the ROS computation graph works.

Programming turtlesim Using rospy

We are done with the “Hello World” ROS example in C++ and Python. In this section, we use a more interesting application. We saw the `turtlesim` application in ROS. Now we look at how to program `turtlesim` using `rospy` Py. We are using `rospy` for the demo because it is very simple to prototype. In `turtlesim`, there is a turtle that we can move around the workspace.

Moving turtlesim

This section discusses how to program `turtlesim` to move around its workspace.

You already know how to start the `turtlesim` application. The following is the list of commands to run.

Starting `roscore`

```
$ roscore
```

Running `turtlesim` node in another terminal

```
$ rosrn turtlesim turtlesim_node
```

Here is the list of topics which is publishing by `turtlesim_node`

```
$ rostopic list

/rosout
/rosout_agg
/turtle1/cmd_vel
/turtle1/color_sensor
/turtle1/pose
```

To move the turtle inside the turtlesim application, publish the linear and angular velocity to the `/turtle1/cmd_vel` topic.

Check the type of the `/turtle1/cmd_vel` topic by using the following command.

```
$ rostopic type /turtle1/cmd_vel

geometry_msgs/Twist
```

This means that the `/cmd_vel` topic has the `geometry_msgs/Twist` message type, so we have to publish the same message type to this topic to move the robot.

To see the `geometry_msgs/Twist` definition, use the following command.

```
$ rosmmsg show geometry_msgs/Twist
```

The output of the command is shown in Figure 5-17.

```
robot@robot-pc:~$ rosmmsg show geometry_msgs/Twist
geometry_msgs/Vector3 linear
  float64 x
  float64 y
  float64 z
geometry_msgs/Vector3 angular
  float64 x
  float64 y
  float64 z
```

Figure 5-17. Definition of `geometry_msgs/Twist` message

The twist message has two subsections: linear velocity and angular velocity.

If we set the robot's linear velocity component, it moves forward or backward. In turtlesim, we can only set the linear.x component because it can move only in x direction; there is no motion along y and z. Also, we can set angular.z components to rotate the robot on its axis. There is no effect to other components.

More information about this message is at http://docs.ros.org/api/geometry_msgs/html/msg/Twist.html.

How can we move the topic through the command line? By using rostopic. The following command publishes the linear.x = 0.1 velocity to the turtlesim node.

Note You don't need to enter the complete command. Use the Tab key to autocomplete the command. Just type **rostopic pub /turtle1/cmd_vel**, and use the Tab key to autocomplete other fields.

```
$ rostopic pub /turtle1/cmd_vel geometry_msgs/Twist "linear:
  x:0.1
  y:0
  z:0
angular:
  x:0
  y:0
  z:0"
```

How do we move the turtle in a Python node?

We are going to create a new node called move_turtle and publish a twist message to the turtlesim node. Figure 5-18 shows the communication between the two nodes.

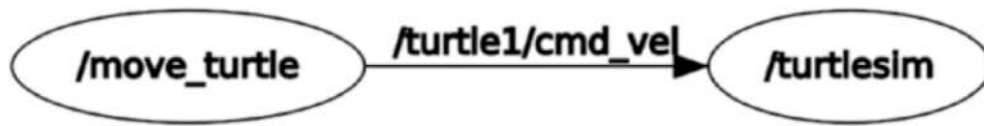


Figure 5-18. Computation graph of *move_turtle* node and *turtlesim* node

The following is the code for the *move_turtle.py* node. You can read the comments in the code to get a better idea about each line of code.

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import rospy

#Importing Twist message: Used to send velocity to Turtlesim
from geometry_msgs.msg import Twist

#Handling command line arguments
import sys

#Function to move turtle: Linear and angular velocities are
arguments
def move_turtle(lin_vel,ang_vel):

    rospy.init_node('move_turtle', anonymous=False)

    #The /turtle1/cmd_vel is the topic in which we have to
    send Twist messages
    pub = rospy.Publisher('/turtle1/cmd_vel', Twist, queue_size=10)
    rate = rospy.Rate(10) # 10hz

    #Creating Twist message instance
    vel = Twist()

    while not rospy.is_shutdown():
```

```

        #Adding linear and angular velocity to the message
        vel.linear.x = lin_vel
        vel.linear.y = 0
        vel.linear.z = 0

        vel.angular.x = 0
        vel.angular.y = 0
        vel.angular.z = ang_vel

        rospy.loginfo("Linear Vel = %f: Angular Vel =
        %f",lin_vel,ang_vel)

        #Publishing Twist message
        pub.publish(vel)

        rate.sleep()

if __name__ == '__main__':
    try:
        #Providing linear and angular velocity through command line
        move_turtle(float(sys.argv[1]),float(sys.argv[2]))
    except rospy.ROSInterruptException:
        pass

```

This code takes the linear and the angular velocity through a command line. We can use the Python `sys` module to get the command-line arguments inside our code. Once it has the linear velocity and the angular velocity, it calls the `move_turtle()` function, which inserts both velocities into a twist message and publishes it.

You can save the code as `move_turtle.py`, and change the permission to executable.

The following shows how to run it.

Start `roscore`

```
$ roscore
```

Start the turtlesim node

```
$ rosrn turtlesim turtlesim_node
```

Run the `move_turtle.py` node along with the command-line arguments, which are 0.2 and 0.1. That is, linear velocity = 0.2 m/s and angular velocity = 0.1 rad/s.

```
$ rosrn hello_world move_turtle.py 0.2 0.1
```

You get the output shown in Figure 5-19 if you run this code. It creates a circle.

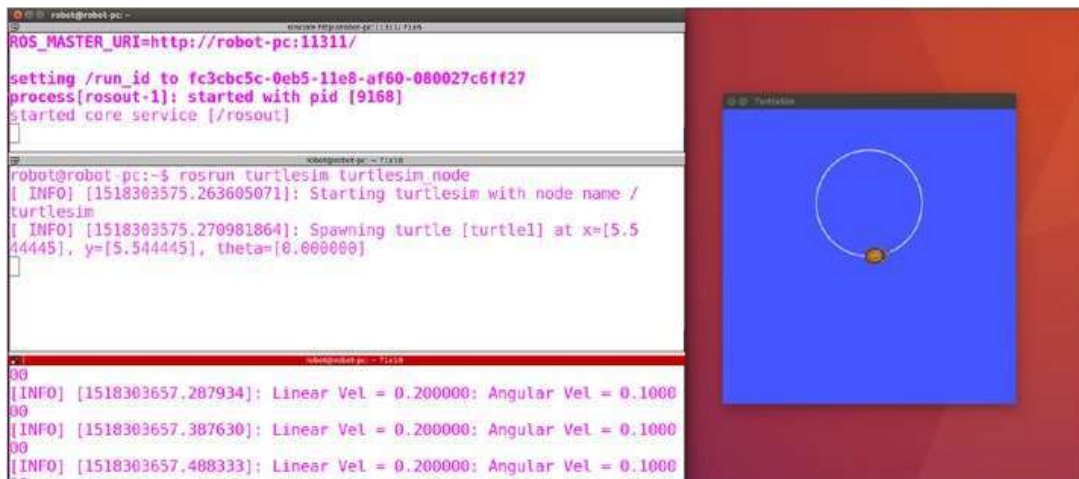


Figure 5-19. Output of `move_turtle.py`

Printing the Robot's Position

You have seen how to publish the turtle's velocity. Now you are going to learn how to get the turtle's current position from the `/turtle1/pose` topic.

Restart `turtlesim_node` and close `move_turtle.py`. Echo the `/turtle1/pose` topic using `rostopic`. The turtle's current position is shown in Figure 5-20.

```
$ rostopic echo /turtle1/pose
```

```
robot@robot-pc:~$ rostopic echo /turtle1/pose
x: 5.544444561
y: 5.544444561
theta: 0.0
linear_velocity: 0.0
angular_velocity: 0.0
---
x: 5.544444561
y: 5.544444561
theta: 0.0
linear_velocity: 0.0
angular_velocity: 0.0
---
x: 5.544444561
y: 5.544444561
theta: 0.0
linear_velocity: 0.0
angular_velocity: 0.0
---
```

Figure 5-20. Turtle pose from topic */turtle1/pose*

You see the current (x,y,theta) value of the robot and the turtle's current linear and angular velocities.

If you want to get this position in a Python node, you have to subscribe the called */turtle1/pose* topic. To do that and get the data from the message, you have to know the ROS message type. The following finds the message type.

```
$ rostopic type /turtle1/pose
```

```
turtlesim/Pose
```

If you want to know the message definition, use the following command.

```
$ rosmmsg show turtlesim/Pose
```

As shown in Figure 5-21, there are five terms inside the message: x, y, theta, linear velocity, and angular velocity.

```
robot@robot-pc:~$ rosmmsg show turtlesim/Pose
float32 x
float32 y
float32 theta
float32 linear_velocity
float32 angular_velocity
```

Figure 5-21. ROS message definition of *turtlesim/Pose*

To learn more about this message, refer to <http://docs.ros.org/api/turtlesim/html/msg/Pose.html>.

Let's modify the existing `move_turtle.py` and add the option to subscribe the `/turtle1/pose` topic. Save this code as `move_turtle_get_pose.py`.

Figure 5-22 shows how the program works. It is feeding velocity and subscribing the position from the `turtlesim` node at the same time.

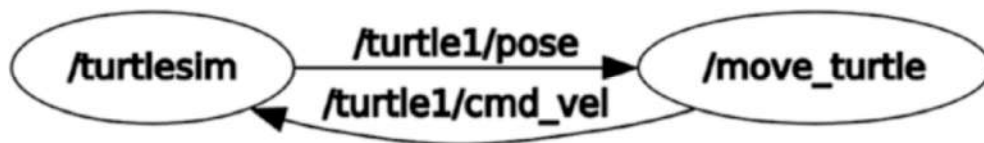


Figure 5-22. `move_turtle_get_pose.py` code

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import rospy

from geometry_msgs.msg import Twist
from turtlesim.msg import Pose

import sys

# /turtle1/Pose topic callback
def pose_callback(pose):
    rospy.loginfo("Robot X = %f : Y=%f : Z=%f\n", pose.x, pose.y, pose.theta)

def move_turtle(lin_vel, ang_vel):
```

```

rospy.init_node('move_turtle', anonymous=True)
pub = rospy.Publisher('/turtle1/cmd_vel', Twist, queue_size=10)

    #Creating new subscriber: Topic name= /turtle1/pose:
    Callback name: pose_callback
rospy.Subscriber('/turtle1/pose', Pose, pose_callback)

rate = rospy.Rate(10) # 10hz

vel = Twist()
while not rospy.is_shutdown():

    vel.linear.x = lin_vel
    vel.linear.y = 0
    vel.linear.z = 0

    vel.angular.x = 0
    vel.angular.y = 0
    vel.angular.z = ang_vel

    rospy.loginfo("Linear Vel = %f: Angular Vel = %f", lin_
vel, ang_vel)

    pub.publish(vel)

    rate.sleep()

if __name__ == '__main__':
    try:
        move_turtle(float(sys.argv[1]), float(sys.argv[2]))
    except rospy.ROSInterruptException:
        pass

```

This code is self-explanatory. You can see comments where the code for subscribing the /turtle1/pose topic is added.

Run the code by using the following commands. Figure 5-23 shows that the code is printing the robot's position and velocity.

Starting roscore

```
$ roscore
```

Restarting the turtlesim node

```
$ rosrun turtlesim turtlesim_node
```

Running move_turtle_get_pose.py code

```
$ rosrun hello_world move_turtle_get_pose.py 0.2 0.1
```

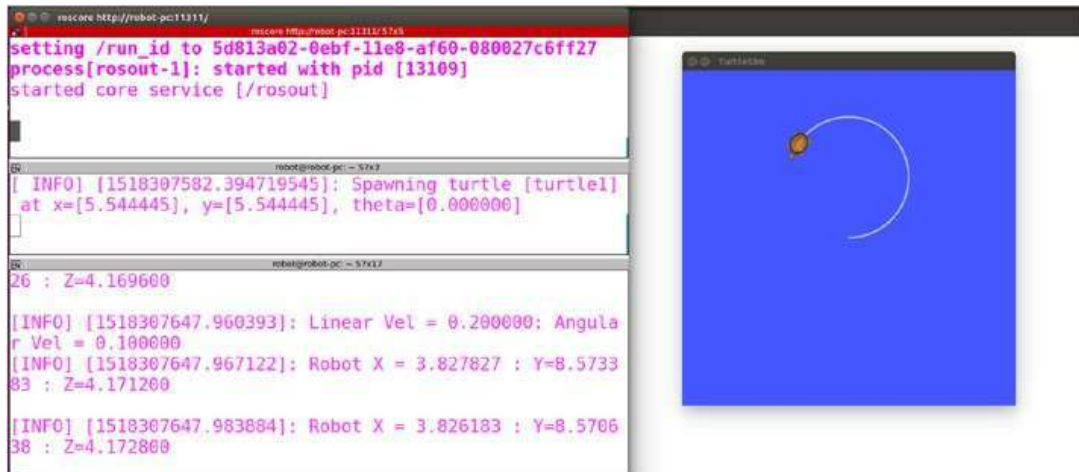


Figure 5-23. Output of `move_turtle_get_pose.py` code

If we are getting both position and velocity, we can simply command the robot to move to a specific distance, right? The next example is moving the robot with distance feedback.

The code is a modification of the `move_turtle_get_pose.py` code.

Moving the Robot with Position Feedback

We can save this code as `move_distance.py`. The communication between this node and turtlesim is shown in Figure 5-24.

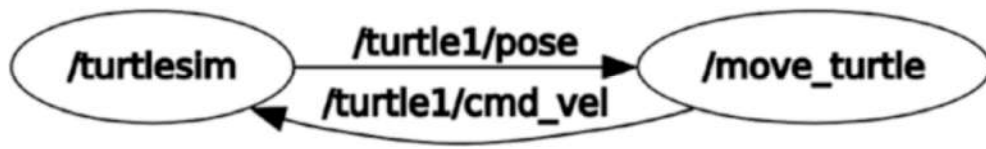


Figure 5-24. Communication of *move_distance.py* to *turtlesim*

This node is simple. We can give linear velocity, angular velocity, and distance (global distance) to it as a command-line argument.

Along with publishing velocity to the turtle, it checks the distance moved. When it reaches its destination, the turtle or robot stops. You can read the comments inside the code to understand what's happening inside the code.

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import rospy

from geometry_msgs.msg import Twist
from turtlesim.msg import Pose

import sys

robot_x = 0

def pose_callback(pose):
    global robot_x

    rospy.loginfo("Robot X = %f\n",pose.x)

    robot_x = pose.x

def move_turtle(lin_vel,ang_vel,distance):
    global robot_x

    rospy.init_node('move_turtle', anonymous=True)
    pub = rospy.Publisher('/turtle1/cmd_vel', Twist, queue_size=10)
```



```

rospy.Subscriber('/turtle1/pose',Pose, pose_callback)

rate = rospy.Rate(10) # 10hz

vel = Twist()
while not rospy.is_shutdown():
    vel.linear.x = lin_vel
    vel.linear.y = 0
    vel.linear.z = 0

    vel.angular.x = 0
    vel.angular.y = 0
    vel.angular.z = ang_vel

    #rospy.loginfo("Linear Vel = %f: Angular Vel = %f",
    lin_vel,ang_vel)

    #Checking the robot distance is greater than the
    commanded distance
    # If it is greater, stop the node

    if(robot_x >= distance):
        rospy.loginfo("Robot Reached destination")
        rospy.logwarn("Stopping robot")
        break

    pub.publish(vel)

    rate.sleep()

if __name__ == '__main__':
    try:
        move_turtle(float(sys.argv[1]),float(sys.argv[2]),
        float(sys.argv[3]))
    except rospy.ROSInterruptException:
        pass

```

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We can run the code by using the following commands. You can Figure 5-25 for seeing the output

Start roscore

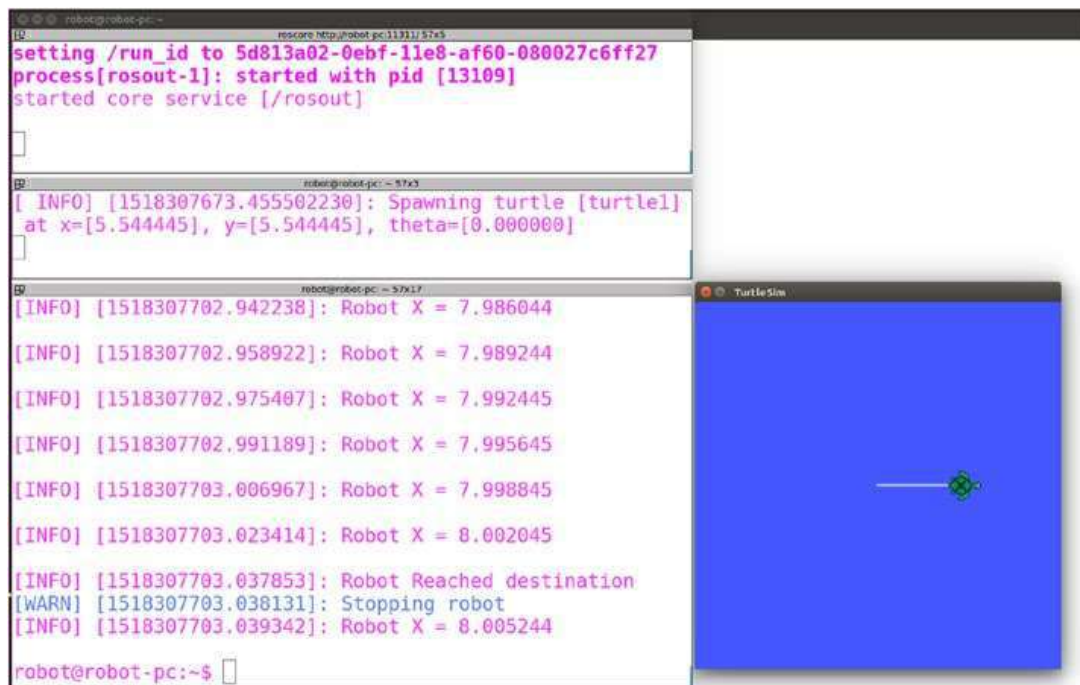
```
$ roscore
```

Start turtlesim node

```
$ rosrunc turtlesim turtlesim_node
```

Run the move_distance.py. Mention linear, angular velocity and the global distance the robot should travel.

```
$ rosrunc hello_world move_distance.py 0.2 0.0 8.0
```



The screenshot shows a ROS environment with three windows. The top window is the roscore terminal, showing the process starting with pid [13109]. The middle window is the rosrunc terminal, showing the spawning of turtle [turtle1] at x=[5.54445], y=[5.54445], theta=[0.00000]. The bottom window is the rosrunc terminal, showing the execution of move_distance.py. It displays a series of INFO messages for the robot's X position, starting at 7.986044 and ending at 8.005244. A WARN message indicates the robot reached the destination and is being stopped. The turtlesim window on the right shows a green robot on a blue background, moving from its initial position towards the right edge of the workspace.

```
robot@robot-pc:~$ roscore
roscrcore http://robot-pc:11311/57x5
setting /run_id to 5d813a02-0ebf-11e8-af60-080027c6ff27
process[roscrcore-1]: started with pid [13109]
started core service [/roscrcore]

robot@robot-pc:~$ rosrunc turtlesim turtlesim_node
[ INFO] [1518307673.455502230]: Spawning turtle [turtle1]
at x=[5.54445], y=[5.54445], theta=[0.00000]

robot@robot-pc:~$ rosrunc hello_world move_distance.py 0.2 0.0 8.0
[INFO] [1518307702.942238]: Robot X = 7.986044
[INFO] [1518307702.958922]: Robot X = 7.989244
[INFO] [1518307702.975407]: Robot X = 7.992445
[INFO] [1518307702.991189]: Robot X = 7.995645
[INFO] [1518307703.006967]: Robot X = 7.998845
[INFO] [1518307703.023414]: Robot X = 8.002045
[INFO] [1518307703.037853]: Robot Reached destination
[WARN] [1518307703.038131]: Stopping robot
[INFO] [1518307703.039342]: Robot X = 8.005244

robot@robot-pc:~$
```

Figure 5-25. Output of move_distance.py

We have played with lot of things in turtlesim using ROS topic. Now, we can work with ROS service and a ROS parameter. The next example simply resets the turtlesim workspace, and randomly changes the background color. The workspace reset is accomplished using ROS services, and the color

changing is done using ROS parameter. When the workspace resets, the robot's position resets to the home position and the turtle model changes.

Reset and Change the Background Color

This code shows how to call a service and a parameter from a Python code.

The following gets the list of services in the turtlesim node (see Figure 5-26).

```
$ rosservice list
```

```
robot@robot-pc:~$ rosservice list
/clear
/kill
/reset
/rosout/get_loggers
/rosout/set_logger_level
/spawn
/turtle1/set_pen
/turtle1/teleport_absolute
/turtle1/teleport_relative
/turtlesim/get_loggers
/turtlesim/set_logger_level
```

Figure 5-26. List of turtlesim node services

There are several services, but we want the `/reset` service. When we call this service, the workspace resets.

We can retrieve the type of service from the following topic.

```
$ rosservice type /reset
```

```
std_srvs/Empty
```

`std_srvs/Empty` is a built-in service from ROS. It has no fields.

The following command shows the field of the corresponding topic.

```
$ rossrv show std_srvs/Empty
```

We can also list the ROS parameters. You can see the turtlesim background color in three parameters. If we change these parameters, we change the color. After setting the color, we have to reset the workspace to show the new color (see Figure 5-27).

```
$ rosparam list
```

```
robot@robot-pc:~$ rosparam list
/background_b
/background_g
/background_r
/rosdistro
/roslaunch/uris/host_robot_pc__44371
/rosversion
/run_id
```

Figure 5-27. List of parameters from turtlesim node

The following gets the value from each parameter.

```
$ rosparam get /background_b
```

```
255
```

```
robot@robot-pc:~$ rostopic echo /turtle1/color_sensor
r: 69
g: 86
b: 255
---
r: 69
g: 86
b: 255
---
r: 69
g: 86
b: 255
---
r: 69
g: 86
b: 255
---
```

Figure 5-28. Topic publishing the color

The following topic publishes the background color (see Figure 5-28).

```
$ rostopic echo /turtle1/color_sensor
```

The following code sets the parameter for the background color and resets the workspace by calling `/reset` service.

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import rospy
import random

from std_srvs.srv import Empty

def change_color():

    rospy.init_node('change_color', anonymous=True)

    #Setting random values from 0-255 in the color parameters
    rospy.set_param('/background_b',random.randint(0,255))
    rospy.set_param('/background_g',random.randint(0,255))
    rospy.set_param('/background_r',random.randint(0,255))
```

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```
#Waiting for service /reset
rospy.wait_for_service('/reset')

#Calling /reset service
try:

    serv = rospy.ServiceProxy('/reset',Empty)
    resp = serv()
    rospy.loginfo("Executed service")

except rospy.ServiceException, e:
    rospy.loginfo("Service call failed: %s" %e)

rospy.spin()

if __name__ == '__main__':
    try:
        change_color()
    except rospy.ROSInterruptException:
        pass
```

We can save the code as `turtle_service_param.py`. The following commands starts the ROS node (see Figure [5-29](#)).

Starting roscore

```
$ roscore
```

Starting turtlesim_node

```
$ rosrun turtlesim turtlesim_node
```

Execute the `turtle_service_param.py` code

```
$ rosrun hello_world turtle_service_param.py
```

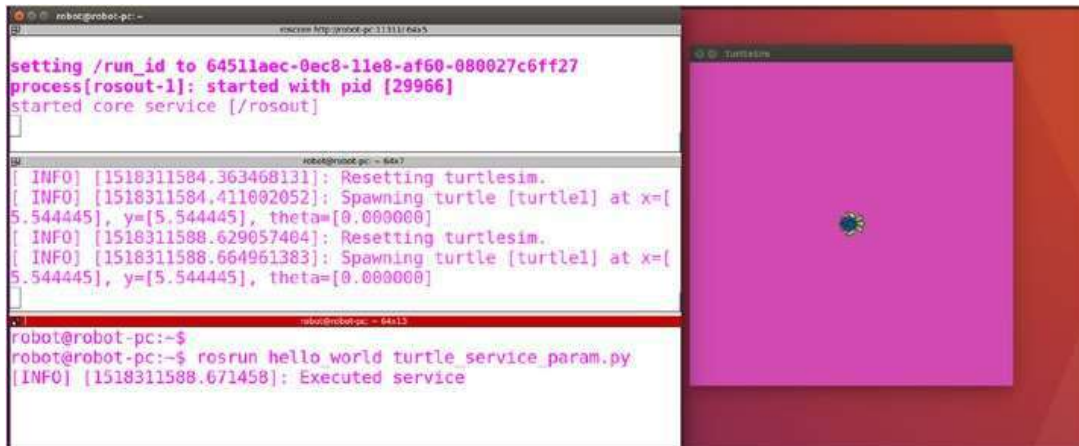


Figure 5-29. *Resetting workspace and changing colors*

You have successfully done the turtlesim exercise. The turtle is actually a robot. You can do all of the operations that you did with the turtle with a physical robot too. The next section explains how to do this operation with an actual robot. It is only a simulation but uses the same procedure as with real hardware.

Programming TurtleBot Simulation Using rospy

There are several robots available on the market that run completely on ROS and Ubuntu. The TurtleBot series are a low-cost robots that are used for education and research. You can learn more about the TurtleBot 2 robot at www.turtlebot.com/turtlebot2/. If you want to check out the latest version of a TurtleBot, go to <http://emanual.robotis.com/docs/en/platform/turtlebot3/overview/>.

In this section, we program TurtleBot 2. We look at the installation of TurtleBot 2 packages and how to start the simulation in Gazebo. The code that we developed for turtlesim works on the TurtleBot 2 and 3 robots. The first step is to install the TurtleBot 2 packages.

Installing TurtleBot 2 Packages

The TurtleBot packages are already available in the ROS repository, so we just need to install them.

The first step is to update the list of packages by using the following command.

```
$ sudo apt-get update
```

Installing turtlebot simulation packages

```
$ sudo apt-get install ros-kinetic-turtlebot-gazebo ros-kinetic-turtlebot-simulator ros-kinetic-turtlebot-description ros-kinetic-turtlebot-teleop
```

These packages install the TurtleBot simulation environment in Ubuntu 16.04 LTS.

Launching the TurtleBot Simulation

After installing the TurtleBot packages, launch the simulation of TurtleBot 2 by using the following command.

Note It may take time to load the environment in Gazebo. Initially, the Gazebo window may be black because some 3D mesh files are downloading. The time it takes to complete the download depends on your Internet speed. If you feel that Gazebo is stuck, just cancel by pressing Ctrl+C, and launch it again.

```
$ roslaunch turtlebot_gazebo turtlebot_world.launch
```

This command launches a ROS launch file from the `turtlebot_gazebo` package. If the simulation loads successfully, you get a window like the one shown in Figure [5-30](#).

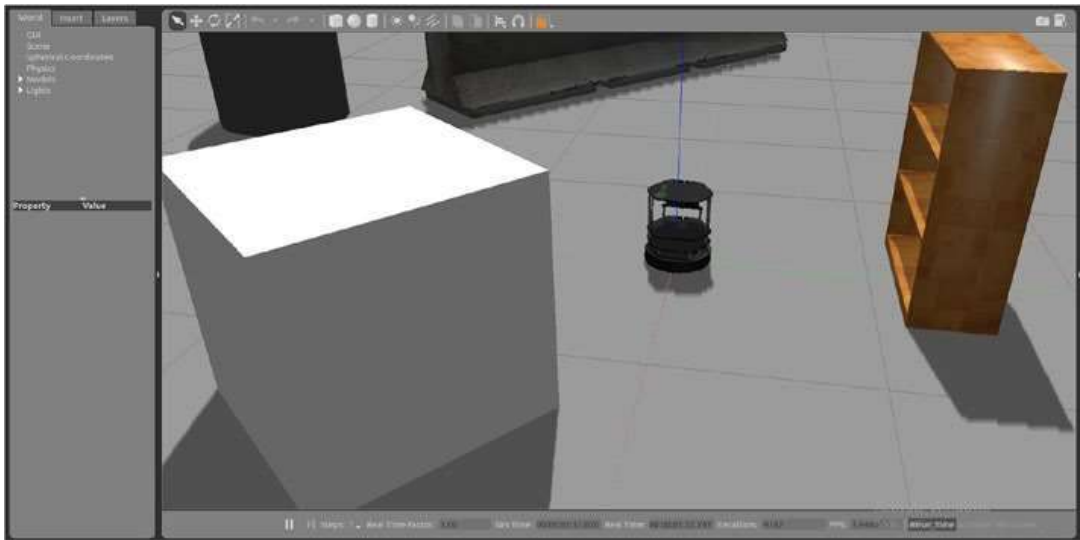


Figure 5-30. *TurtleBot 2 Gazebo simulation*

If you want to move the robot around the environment, start a new terminal and launch the following command.

```
$ roslaunch turtlebot_teleop keyboard_teleop.launch
```

When you run this command, you get the following messages on the terminal. Click the terminal using a mouse, and press the keys mentioned on the terminal. You can move the robot using I, J, and L keys (see Figure 5-31).

```
Control Your Turtlebot!
-----
Moving around:
    u    i    o
    j    k    l
    m    ,    .

q/z : increase/decrease max speeds by 10%
w/x : increase/decrease only linear speed by 10%
e/c : increase/decrease only angular speed by 10%
space key, k : force stop
anything else : stop smoothly

CTRL-C to quit

currently:      speed 0.2      turn 1
█
```

Figure 5-31. *TurtleBot 2 teleop application*

If you want to stop the robot, press Space bar, if you want to stop the simulation or teleoperation, just press Ctrl+C.

Moving a Fixed Distance Using a Python Node

In this section, we move the robot to a fixed distance using the node that we used for turtlesim. We can modify the `move_distance.py` node.

For turtlebot the velocity Twist message topic is: `/cmd_vel_mux/input/teleop`: Message type: `geometry_msgs/Twist`

Robot position feedback topic: `/odom` : Message type: `nav_msgs/Odometry`

We get the definition of odometry from the following command.

```
$ rosmmsg show nav_msgs/Odometry
```

It is a built-in message type in ROS.

We have to import the modules for these messages. The logic of the robot movement is the same as in turtlesim. The distance is global distance. The initial origin of the robot is 0,0,0.

```
#!/usr/bin/env python
```

```
import rospy
```

```
from geometry_msgs.msg import Twist
```

```
from nav_msgs.msg import Odometry
```

```
import sys
```

```
robot_x = 0
```

```
def pose_callback(msg):
```

```
    global robot_x
```

```
    #Reading x position from the Odometry message
```

```
    robot_x = msg.pose.pose.position.x
```

```

    rospy.loginfo("Robot X = %f\n",robot_x)

def move_turtle(lin_vel,ang_vel,distance):

    global robot_x

    rospy.init_node('move_turtlebot', anonymous=False)

    #The Twist topic is /cmd_vel_mux/input/teleop
    pub = rospy.Publisher('/cmd_vel_mux/input/teleop', Twist,
        queue_size=10)

    #Position topic is /odom
    rospy.Subscriber('/odom',Odometry, pose_callback)

    rate = rospy.Rate(10) # 10hz

    vel = Twist()
    while not rospy.is_shutdown():

        vel.linear.x = lin_vel
        vel.linear.y = 0
        vel.linear.z = 0

        vel.angular.x = 0
        vel.angular.y = 0
        vel.angular.z = ang_vel

        #rospy.loginfo("Linear Vel = %f: Angular Vel = %f",lin_
        vel,ang_vel)

        if(robot_x >= distance):
            rospy.loginfo("Robot Reached destination")
            rospy.logwarn("Stopping robot")

            break

        pub.publish(vel)

```

```

        rate.sleep()

if __name__ == '__main__':
    try:
        move_turtle(float(sys.argv[1]),float(sys.
            argv[2]),float(sys.argv[3]))
    except rospy.ROSInterruptException:
        pass

```

We can run this code by using the following command.

```
$ roslaunch turtlebot_gazebo turtlebot_world.launch
```

Start the TurtleBot simulation. If you are launching a file, you don't need to start roscore because roslaunch already runs roscore.

Run the move distance node with command-line arguments (see Figure 5-32).

```
$ rosrun hello_world move_turtlebot.py 0.2 0 3
```

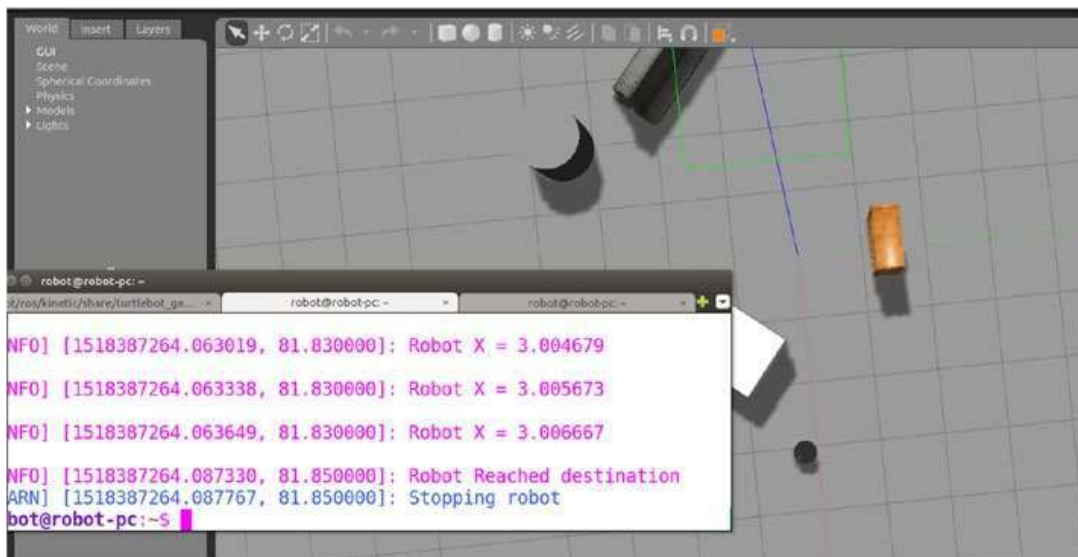


Figure 5-32. TurtleBot 2 moving 3 meters from its origin

Finding Obstacles

Using the same logic, we can find obstacles around TurtleBot. You can subscribe the laser scan topic from TurtleBot, which gives the obstacle range around the robot.

Topic: /scan

Message Type: sensor_msgs/LaserScan

Also, you get all the fields inside this message by using the following command.

```
$ rosmmsg show sensor_msgs/LaserScan
```

A good exercise is to create an obstacle avoidance application in ROS.

Programming Embedded Boards Using ROS

You have seen how to program a robot in ROS, and you have seen robot simulation. Now let's discuss how to create robot hardware and program using ROS.

One of the core ingredients of a robot is the microcontroller platform. A microcontroller is basically a chip on which we can write our own code. We can also configure the chip's pins. Microcontrollers are used for various applications. In robotics, controllers are used to interface sensors, such as ultrasonic distance sensors, IR sensors, and so forth, and for adjusting the speed of a robot's motors. Microcontrollers can also communicate with a PC via serial communication.

In this section, you look at some basic interfacing with popular microcontroller platforms, such as the Arduino (www.arduino.cc) and the Tiva-C Launchpad (www.ti.com/tool/EK-TM4C123GXL), and with single-board computers, such as Raspberry Pi 3 board (www.raspberrypi.org).

Let's start with the Arduino board.

Interfacing Arduino with ROS

Arduino boards are on a microcontroller-based platform that program using a C++-like programming language. There are a variety of Arduino boards available (www.arduino.cc/en/Main/Products). We are going to use the Arduino Mega, which is available at <https://store.arduino.cc/usa/arduino-mega-2560-rev3>.

Figure 5-33 shows the Arduino Mega 2560 Rev3 board.



Figure 5-33. *Arduino Mega 2560 board*

You can program the Arduino board by connecting to your PC. You can download the Arduino IDE from www.arduino.cc/en/Main/Software.

When you launch the IDE, you first see the window shown in Figure 5-34.



Figure 5-34. *Arduino IDE*

In the Arduino programming language, similar to C++, there are a lot of libraries available for simplifying tasks. For example, there are libraries for communicating with a PC, sending speed commands to motor drivers, and so forth.

There is also a library for interfacing with ROS. Using this library, the Arduino can send/receive messages to the PC. These messages are converted to topics on the PC side. Arduino can publish data and subscribe data, similar to a ROS node. Actually, Arduino acts like the ROS hardware node.

First, let's learn how to create an Arduino library for communicating with the ROS system.

We have to install a ROS package to create this library. The following is the command.

```
$ sudo apt-get install ros-kinetic-rosserial-arduino
```

This installs the necessary packages to interface Arduino with ROS.

The next step is to open the Arduino IDE. Select File Menu ➤ Preference. You get the window shown in Figure 5-35.

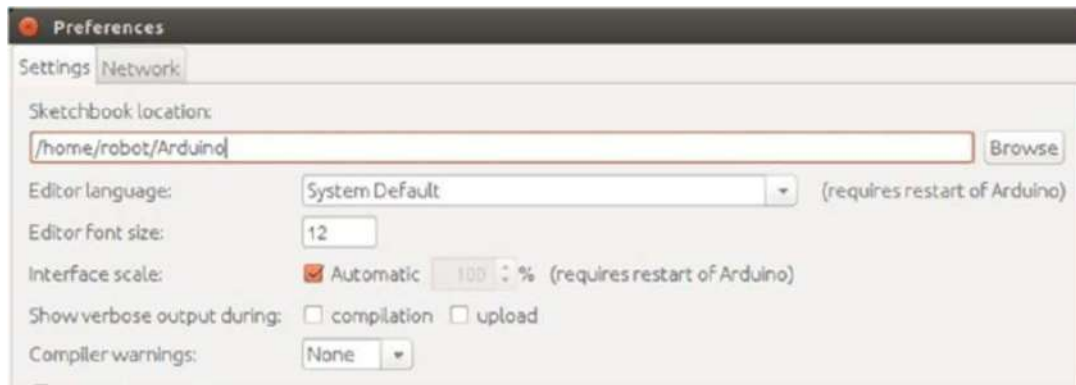


Figure 5-35. *Arduino Preference window*

Take a new terminal and switch to sketchbook folder path mentioned in the Preference Window. When you switch to this folder, you can find another folder called `libraries`. You can then switch to the `libraries` folder and execute the following command (see Figure 5-36).

```
$ rosrn rosserial_arduino make_libraries.py .
```

```
robot@robot-pc:~/Arduino/libraries$ rosrn rosserial_arduino make_libraries.py .
Exporting to .
Exporting actionlib
Messages:
  TwoIntsGoal,TwoIntsAction,TwoIntsActionFeedback,TestRequestActionResult,TwoIntsActionRe
  sult,TestFeedback,TwoIntsActionGoal,TestRequestActionFeedback,TestRequestFeedback,TestReque
  stAction,TestActionResult,TestRequestResult,TestAction,TestRequestGoal,TestGoal,TwoIntsFeed
  back,TestResult,TestActionFeedback,TwoIntsResult,TestActionGoal,TestRequestActionGoal,
Exporting actionlib_msgs
Messages:
  GoalID,GoalStatus,GoalStatusArray,
Exporting actionlib_tutorials
```

Figure 5-36. *Creating a ROS library for Arduino*

When you run the preceding command, you can see messages print on the terminal. This is actually creating the Arduino library for ROS.

After finishing the process, check the `libraries` folder. The `ros_lib` folder is the Arduino library for ROS.

Close the Arduino IDE and restart. Then go to File ► Examples ► ros_lib. You see a list of examples using Arduino and ROS. Let's discuss a basic example: Blink.

Blink is basically a Hello World example for the Arduino. When the Arduino interfaces with ROS, we get a topic. When we publish to a topic, it turns on, and when we publish again, it turns off. It is like LED toggling.

Figure 5-37 shows the Blink example.

```

/*
 * rosserial Subscriber Example
 * Blinks an LED on callback
 */

#include <ros.h>
#include <std_msgs/Empty.h>

ros::NodeHandle nh;

void messageCb( const std_msgs::Empty& toggle_msg){
  digitalWrite(13, HIGH-digitalRead(13)); // blink the led
}

ros::Subscriber<std_msgs::Empty> sub("toggle_led", &messageCb );

void setup()
{
  pinMode(13, OUTPUT);
  nh.initNode();
  nh.subscribe(sub);
}

void loop()
{
  nh.spinOnce();
  delay(1);
}

```

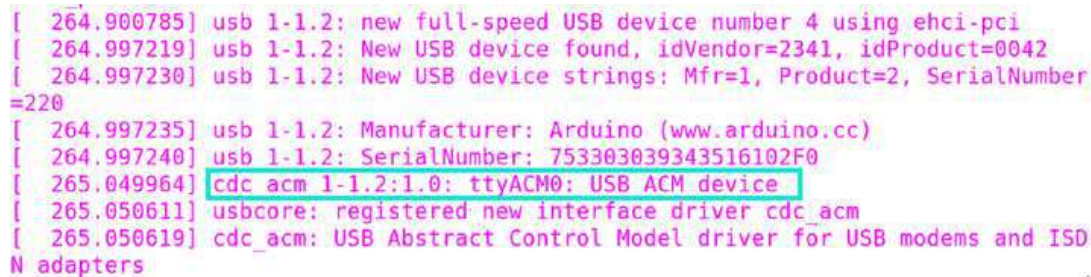
Figure 5-37. The Arduino Blink example

The workings of the code is self-explanatory. We create a node and subscribe a topic called `/toggle_led`. When a message comes to the topic, the LED turns on, and when next data comes to topic, the LED turns off.

Let's upload the code to Arduino. To do that, plug the Arduino to a laptop.

Find the Arduino serial port by using the `dmesg` command (see Figure 5-38).

```
$ dmesg
```



```
[ 264.900785] usb 1-1.2: new full-speed USB device number 4 using ehci-pci
[ 264.997219] usb 1-1.2: New USB device found, idVendor=2341, idProduct=0042
[ 264.997230] usb 1-1.2: New USB device strings: Mfr=1, Product=2, SerialNumber
=220
[ 264.997235] usb 1-1.2: Manufacturer: Arduino (www.arduino.cc)
[ 264.997240] usb 1-1.2: SerialNumber: 753303039343516102F0
[ 265.049964] cdc_acm 1-1.2:1.0: ttyACM0: USB ACM device
[ 265.050611] usbcore: registered new interface driver cdc_acm
[ 265.050619] cdc_acm: USB Abstract Control Model driver for USB modems and ISD
N adapters
```

Figure 5-38. The output of `dmesg` command

The Arduino serial device is `/dev/ttyACM0`.

Change the device's permission by using the following command.

```
$ sudo chmod 777 /dev/ttyACM0
```

After that, select this serial device from the Arduino IDE.

Goto Tools->Port->ttyACM0

We can now compile this example and upload the code to the board.

After uploading the code, we have to execute the following commands to see the topics from the Arduino. Execute each command in separate terminals.

Starting roscore

```
$ roscore
```

Start the ROS serial server on the PC. The node does the conversion of topics to and from the Arduino.

```
$ rosrun roserial_python serial_node.py /dev/ttyACM0
```

Publish a value to the `/toggle_led` topic.

```
$ rostopic pub toggle_led std_msgs/Empty --once
```

This turns on the LED on the board. If we do it again, it turns off.

Figure 5-39 shows the output.

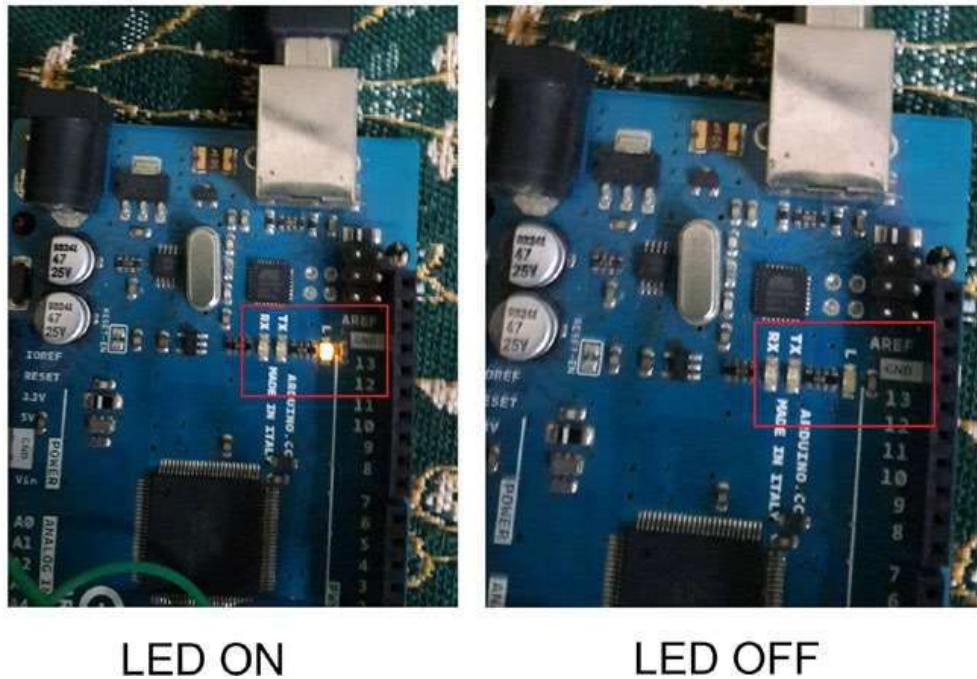


Figure 5-39. The LED toggling command

There are more examples of ROS/Arduino interfacing at http://wiki.ros.org/roserial_arduino/Tutorials.

Installing ROS on a Raspberry Pi

The Raspberry Pi computer is a popular board for DIY projects and robotics. The cost of the board is low, and its specifications are best for DIY projects. The latest Raspberry Pi 3 board has the following specs.

Name of SoC: Broadcom BCM2837.

CPU: 4× ARM Cortex-A53, 1.2GHz.

GPU: Broadcom VideoCore IV.

RAM: 1GB LPDDR2 (900 MHz)

Networking: 10/100 Ethernet, 2.4GHz 802.11n wireless.

Bluetooth: Bluetooth 4.1 Classic, Bluetooth Low Energy.

Storage: microSD.

GPIO: 40-pin header, populated.

The Raspberry Pi 3 is shown in [Figure 5-40](#).

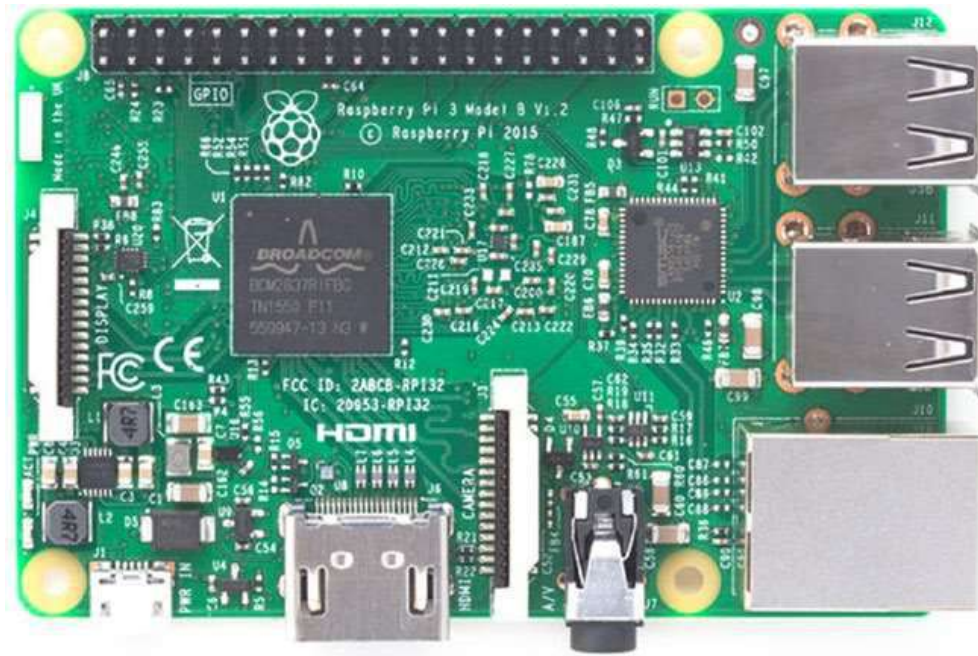


Figure 5-40. *The Raspberry Pi 3 board*

So how do you install an OS on this board and then install ROS onto it?

The next section explains the procedures for installing an operating system and ROS.

Burning an Ubuntu Mate Image to a Micro SD Card

To install an OS on the Raspberry Pi 3, you need to buy a micro SD card that is greater than 16 GB. A micro SD card with class 10 is a great choice for the Pi.

There is a micro SD card that you can buy at <http://a.co/1HyY8qr>.

You also need to buy a micro SD card reader or an SD card adapter to plug into your laptop.

You can install the OS using the following GUI tool.

```
$ sudo apt-get install gnome-disk-utility
```

We are going to install Ubuntu Mate on the Raspberry Pi 3. You can download Ubuntu Mate OS from <https://ubuntu-mate.org/download/>.

Choose the Raspberry Pi option from the list. Download the image and open `gnome-disk-utility`. Select the SD card drive, and select the *Restore image* option. You can browse the downloaded image path here. A tutorial is available on YouTube at https://youtu.be/V_6GNyL6Dac.

After completing the restoring process, you can unmount the SD card and plug in to the Raspberry Pi 3.

Booting to Ubuntu

After plugging in the SD card, plug a 5V, 2A supply to the Raspberry Pi 3, and connect Pi to an HDMI monitor. Also, connect a keyboard and a mouse via USB.

The system boots up, and you see the Ubuntu Mate desktop.

Installing ROS on a Raspberry Pi

You can follow the ROS installation instructions at <http://wiki.ros.org/kinetic/Installation/Ubuntu>. These instructions are the same for the `armhf` platform, so it works well in Raspberry Pi 3.

Summary

This chapter discussed programming with ROS. We started the chapter by discussing creating a ROS workspace. We saw how to create a workspace and how to create a ROS package. After creating a package, we saw how to write ROS nodes using C++ and Python. We wrote a sample ROS node using C++ and Python. We discussed ROS launch files and how to include our nodes in a launch file. We created a set of examples to work with `turtlesim` in ROS, and we worked with a Gazebo simulation of TurtleBot. At the end of the chapter, we saw how to program embedded boards such as the Arduino and the Raspberry Pi using ROS, which is very useful when creating robots.

The next chapter discusses how to create wheeled robot hardware and software using ROS.