

CSC398 Autonomous Robots

- Introduction into ROS 2 (2) -

Ubbo Visser

Department of Computer Science
College of Arts and Sciences
University of Miami

September 2026

- ▶ ROS 2 package structure
- ▶ ROS C++ client library (rclcpp)
- ▶ ROS 2 subscribers and publishers
- ▶ ROS 2 parameters
- ▶ RViz2 visualization



ROS PACKAGES

- ▶ ROS 2 software is organized into **packages**, which can contain source code, launch files, configuration files, interface definitions, data, and documentation.
- ▶ A package that uses functionality or interfaces from other packages declares these as **dependencies** in package.xml.

Plain text

```
package_name/  
├── config/  
│   └── *.yaml  
├── include/package_name/  
├── launch/  
│   └── *.launch.py  
├── src/  
├── test/  
├── CMakeLists.txt  
└── package.xml
```

Plain text

```
package_name_interfaces/  
├── action/  
│   └── *.action  
├── msg/  
│   └── *.msg  
├── srv/  
│   └── *.srv  
├── CMakeLists.txt  
└── package.xml
```

Separate interface definition
packages!

Creating a package:

```
~$ros2 pkg create package_name --build-type ament_cmake --dependencies ...
```

ROS 2 PACKAGES

- ▶ The package.xml file hosts and defines the properties of a package
 - ▶ Name of the package
 - ▶ Versioning
 - ▶ Authors
 - ▶ Dependencies
 - ▶ ...

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<?xml-model href="http://download.ros.org/schema/package_format3.xsd" sche
<package format="3">
  <name>assignment2-uv-cpp</name>
  <version>0.0.0</version>
  <description>TODO: Package description</description>
  <maintainer email="robocanes@todo.todo">robocanes</maintainer>
  <license>TODO: License declaration</license>

  <buildtool_depend>ament_cmake</buildtool_depend>

  <depend>rclcpp</depend>
  <depend>sensor_msgs</depend>

  <test_depend>ament_lint_auto</test_depend>
  <test_depend>ament_lint_common</test_depend>

  <export>
  | <build_type>ament_cmake</build_type>
  </export>
</package>
```

In [ROS_WS]/src:

```
ros2 pkg create assignment2-uv-cpp --build-type ament_cmake --dependencies rclcpp sensor_msgs
```

Details at:

<https://docs.ros.org/en/humble/How-To-Guides/Developing-a-ROS-2-Package.html>

ROS 2 PACKAGES

- ▶ The CMakeLists.txt file defines the necessary inputs for the build system
 - ▶ Required CMake version
 - ▶ Package/project name
 - ▶ Find ROS 2 and other CMake packages needed for build (find_package())
 - ▶ Define libraries/executables (add_library(), add_executable())
 - ▶ Specify ROS dependencies (ament_target_dependencies())
 - ▶ Tests to build (ament_add_gtest())
 - ▶ Install rules (install())
 - ▶ Register package with ament (ament_package())

Details at:

<https://docs.ros.org/en/humble/How-To-Guides/Ament-CMake-Documentation.html>

```
cmake_minimum_required(VERSION 3.8)
project(assignment2-uv-cpp)

if(CMAKE_COMPILER_IS_GNUCXX OR CMAKE_CXX_COMPILER_ID MATCHES "Clang")
  add_compile_options(-Wall -Wextra -Wpedantic)
endif()

# find dependencies
find_package(ament_cmake REQUIRED)
find_package(rclcpp REQUIRED)
find_package(sensor_msgs REQUIRED)

add_executable(assignment2-uv-cpp src/assignment2-uv-cpp.cpp)

ament_target_dependencies(
  assignment2-uv-cpp
  rclcpp
  sensor_msgs)

install(TARGETS
  assignment2-uv-cpp
  DESTINATION lib/${PROJECT_NAME}
)

if(BUILD_TESTING)
  find_package(ament_lint_auto REQUIRED)
  # the following line skips the linter which checks for copyrights
  # comment the line when a copyright and license is added to all source files
  set(ament_cmake_copyright_FOUND TRUE)
  # the following line skips cpplint (only works in a git repo)
  # comment the line when this package is in a git repo and when
  # a copyright and license is added to all source files
  set(ament_cmake_cpplint_FOUND TRUE)
  ament_lint_auto_find_test_dependencies()
endif()

ament_package()
```

ROS 2 PACKAGES

- ▶ The package.xml file hosts and defines the properties of a package
 - ▶ Name of the package
 - ▶ Versioning
 - ▶ Authors
 - ▶ Dependencies
 - ▶ ...

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<?xml-model href="http://download.ros.org/schema/package_format3.xsd" sch
<package format="3">
  <name>assignment2-uv-py</name>
  <version>0.0.0</version>
  <description>TODO: Package description</description>
  <maintainer email="robocanes@todo.todo">robocanes</maintainer>
  <license>TODO: License declaration</license>

  <depend>rclpy</depend>
  <depend>sensor_msgs</depend>

  <test_depend>ament_copyright</test_depend>
  <test_depend>ament_flake8</test_depend>
  <test_depend>ament_pep257</test_depend>
  <test_depend>python3-pytest</test_depend>

  <export>
    <build_type>ament_python</build_type>
  </export>
</package>
```

In [ROS_WS]/src:
ros2 pkg create assignment2-uv-py --build-type ament_python --dependencies rclpy sensor_msgs

ROS 2 PACKAGES

- ▶ The **setup.py** file defines the necessary inputs for the build system
 - ▶ Python packages to install (packages)
 - ▶ Package data/resources (data_files)
 - ▶ Python dependencies (install_requires)
 - ▶ Package metadata (maintainer, description, license)
 - ▶ Executable ROS 2 nodes (entry_points)
 - ▶ Register package with the ROS 2 package index

```
from setuptools import find_packages, setup

package_name = 'assignment2-uv-py'

setup(
    name=package_name,
    version='0.0.0',
    packages=find_packages(exclude=['test']),
    data_files=[
        ('share/ament_index/resource_index/packages',
         ['resource/' + package_name]),
        ('share/' + package_name, ['package.xml']),
    ],
    install_requires=['setuptools'],
    zip_safe=True,
    maintainer='robocanes',
    maintainer_email='robocanes@todo.todo',
    description='TODO: Package description',
    license='TODO: License declaration',
    extras_require={
        'test': [
            'pytest',
        ],
    },
    entry_points={
        'console_scripts': [
        ],
    },
)
```

Details at:

<https://docs.ros.org/en/humble/How-To-Guides/Developing-a-ROS-2-Package.html>

ROS 2 C++ CLIENT LIBRARY (RCLCPP)

```
#include <memory>
#include "rclcpp/rclcpp.hpp"

int main(int argc, char * argv[])
{
    rclcpp::init(argc, argv);

    auto node = rclcpp::Node::make_shared("hello_world");

    rclcpp::Rate loop_rate(10);

    unsigned int count = 0;

    while (rclcpp::ok())
    {
        RCLCPP_INFO(node->get_logger(),
            "Hello World %u", count);

        rclcpp::spin_some(node);

        loop_rate.sleep();
        count++;
    }

    rclcpp::shutdown();
    return 0;
}
```

- ▶ ROS 2 C++ client library header: `#include "rclcpp/rclcpp.hpp"`
- ▶ `rclcpp::init(...)` must be called before using ROS 2 functionality
- ▶ A `rclcpp::Node` object represents the ROS 2 node and provides access to topics, services, parameters, timers, etc.
- ▶ `rclcpp::Rate` is a helper class for running loops at a desired frequency
- ▶ `rclcpp::ok()` checks whether ROS 2 should continue running
- ▶ `RCLCPP_INFO()` writes a log message using the node's logger
- ▶ `rclcpp::spin_some(node)` processes available callbacks
- ▶ `rclcpp::shutdown()` shuts down the ROS 2 context

Details at:
<https://docs.ros.org/en/humble/p/rclcpp>

ROS 2C++ CLIENT LIBRARY (RCLCPP) — NODES AND NAMESPACES

- ▶ In ROS 2, communication interfaces are created directly from a `rclcpp::Node`
- ▶ A node has a **name** and may have a **namespace**

```
auto node = rclcpp::Node::make_shared("hello_world");
```

```
auto node = rclcpp::Node::make_shared("hello_world", "/namespace");
```

- ▶ For a **node** in **namespace** looking up **topic**, these will resolve to:

/namespace/topic	#relative
/namespace/my_node/topic	#private
/topic	#absolute

ROS 2 PYTHON CLIENT LIBRARY (RCLPY) — LOGGING

- ▶ Mechanism for logging human-readable messages from nodes
- ▶ Instead of `print()`, use the node's ROS 2 logger
- ▶ Different severity levels: Debug, Info, Warn, Error, Fatal
- ▶ Logger is obtained from the node:

```
self.get_logger().debug('Debug message')
self.get_logger().info('Information message')
self.get_logger().warning('Warning message')
self.get_logger().error('Error message')
self.get_logger().fatal('Fatal message')
```

	Typical use
Debug	Detailed diagnostic information
Info	Normal operational information
Warn	Unexpected but recoverable condition
Error	Operation failed
Fatal	Serious/unrecoverable condition

To see output in terminal:
Set logging level

```
Node(
    package='my_package',
    executable='listener',
    output='screen'
)
```

```
~/ $ ros2 run my_package my_node --ros-args --log-level debug
```

ROS 2 C++ CLIENT LIBRARY (RCLCPP) — SUBSCRIBER

- ▶ Start listening to a topic by calling `create_subscription()` on the node

```
subscription_ = this->create_subscription<std_msgs::msg::String>(
    "chatter", 10, callback);
```

- ▶ When a message is received, the callback function is called with the message as an argument
- ▶ Keep the subscription object alive as long as you want to receive messages
- ▶ `rclcpp::spin()` processes callbacks and blocks until the node is shut down

```
#include <memory>
#include "rclcpp/rclcpp.hpp"
#include "std_msgs/msg/string.hpp"

void callback(const std_msgs::msg::String::SharedPtr msg)
{
    RCLCPP_INFO(rclcpp::get_logger("listener"),
        "I heard: '%s'", msg->data.c_str());
}

int main(int argc, char * argv[])
{
    rclcpp::init(argc, argv);

    auto node = rclcpp::Node::make_shared("listener");
    auto subscriber =
        node->create_subscription<std_msgs::msg::String>(
            "chatter", 10, callback);

    rclcpp::spin(node);
    rclcpp::shutdown();

    return 0;
}
```

Details at:

<https://docs.ros.org/en/humble/Tutorials/Beginner-Client-Libraries/Writing-A-Simple-Cpp-Publisher-And-Subscriber.html>

ROS 2 C++ CLIENT LIBRARY (RCLCPP) — PUBLISHER

- ▶ Create a publisher from the node

```
auto publisher =  
    node->create_publisher<std_msgs::msg::String>(  
        "chatter", 10);
```

- ▶ Create the message contents

- ▶ Publish content with

```
publisher->publish(message);
```

Details at:

<https://docs.ros.org/en/humble/Tutorials/Beginner-Client-Libraries/Writing-A-Simple-Cpp-Publisher-And-Subscriber.html>

```
#include <memory>  
#include "rclcpp/rclcpp.hpp"  
#include "std_msgs/msg/string.hpp"  
  
int main(int argc, char * argv[])  
{  
    rclcpp::init(argc, argv);  
  
    auto node = rclcpp::Node::make_shared("talker");  
    auto publisher =  
        node->create_publisher<std_msgs::msg::String>(  
            "chatter", 10);  
    rclcpp::Rate loop_rate(10);  
    unsigned int count = 0;  
  
    while (rclcpp::ok())  
    {  
        std_msgs::msg::String message;  
        message.data = "Hello World " + std::to_string(count);  
  
        RCLCPP_INFO(node->get_logger(),  
                    "%s", message.data.c_str());  
        publisher->publish(message);  
        loop_rate.sleep();  
        count++;  
    }  
    rclcpp::shutdown();  
  
    return 0;  
}
```

```
#include "rclcpp/rclcpp.hpp"
#include "my_package/MyPackage.hpp"

int main(int argc, char * argv[])
{
    rclcpp::init(argc, argv);

    auto node = std::make_shared<my_package::MyPackage>();

    rclcpp::spin(node);

    rclcpp::shutdown();
    return 0;
}
```

MyPackage.hpp / MyPackage.cpp

Main node class, providing the ROS 2 interface:

- subscribers
- publishers
- parameters
- timers
- services, etc.

```
class MyPackage : public rclcpp::Node
```

Algorithm.hpp / Algorithm.cpp

Class implementing the algorithmic part of the node.

- The algorithmic code can remain ROS-independent.

```
class Algorithm
```

Register a class method as subscriber callback

```
subscription_ = this->create_subscription<std_msgs::msg::String>(
    "chatter", 10,
    std::bind(&MyPackage::callback, this, _1));
```

```
C++
void MyPackage::callback(
    const std_msgs::msg::String::SharedPtr msg)
{
    // process message
}
```

Details at:

<https://docs.ros.org/en/humble/Tutorials/Beginner-Client-Libraries/Writing-A-Simple-Cpp-Publisher-And-Subscriber.html>

ROS 2 PYTHON CLIENT LIBRARY (RCLPY)

```
import random

import rclpy
from rclpy.node import Node
from std_msgs.msg import String

def getName():
    names = ['John', 'Doe', 'Jane', 'Smith', 'Alice']
    return random.choice(names)

def getStatus():
    status = [
        'happy', 'sad', 'angry', 'excited',
        'bored', 'tired', 'hungry', 'awake'
    ]
    return random.choice(status)

def main(args=None):
    rclpy.init(args=args)
    node = Node('publisher_node')
    publisher = node.create_publisher(String, '/ubbo1', 1)

    def callback():
        msg = String()
        msg.data = '%s is %s' % (getName(), getStatus())
        publisher.publish(msg)
        node.get_logger().info(msg.data)

    node.create_timer(1.0, callback)

    try:
        rclpy.spin(node)
    finally:
        node.destroy_node()
        rclpy.shutdown()

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

- ▶ ROS 2 Python client library: import rclpy
- ▶ rclpy.init() must be called before using ROS 2 functionality
- ▶ Node(...) creates a ROS 2 node
- ▶ node.create_publisher(...) creates a publisher for a topic
- ▶ node.get_logger().info(...) logs messages
- ▶ node.create_timer(...) invokes a callback periodically
- ▶ rclpy.spin(node) processes callbacks until the node is shut down
- ▶ rclpy.shutdown() shuts down ROS 2

Details at:
[Publisher/Subscriber python](#)

- ▶ Mechanism for logging human-readable text from nodes
- ▶ Instead of `print()`, use e.g. `node.get_logger().info()`
- ▶ Logging to the console and `/rosout`
- ▶ Different severity levels: Debug, Info, Warn, Error, Fatal

```
node.get_logger().debug('Debug message')
node.get_logger().info('Info message')
node.get_logger().warning('Warning message')
node.get_logger().error('Error message')
node.get_logger().fatal('Fatal message')
```

- ▶ Logging level can be configured at runtime
- ▶ Supports additional features such as throttled and once-only logging

	Typical use
Debug	Detailed diagnostic information
Info	Normal operational information
Warn	Unexpected but recoverable condition
Error	Operation failed
Fatal	Serious/unrecoverable condition

To see output in terminal:
Set logging level from the command line:

```
ros2 run my_package my_node \
  --ros-args --log-level debug
```

ROS 2 PYTHON CLIENT LIBRARY (RCLPY) — SUBSCRIBER

- ▶ Start listening to a topic by calling `create_subscription()` on the node
- ▶ When a message is received, the callback function is called with the contents of the message as the argument
- ▶ Hold on to the subscriber object until you want to unsubscribe
- ▶ **`rclpy.spin(node)`** processes callbacks and blocks until the node is shut down

```
subscriber = node.create_subscription(  
    LaserScan, '/hsrb/base_scan', callback, 10)
```

```
import math  
import rclpy  
from rclpy.node import Node  
from sensor_msgs.msg import LaserScan  
  
class LaserScanListener(Node):  
    """Log the minimum valid distance in each received laser scan."""  
  
    def __init__(self):  
        """Create the laser scan subscription."""  
        super().__init__('laser_scan_listener')  
        self.subscription = self.create_subscription(  
            LaserScan,  
            '/hsrb/base_scan',  
            self.scan_callback,  
            10,  
        )  
  
    def scan_callback(self, scan):  
        """Log the closest finite range in a laser scan."""  
        valid_ranges = [distance for distance in scan.ranges  
                        if math.isfinite(distance)]  
  
        if valid_ranges:  
            min_distance = min(valid_ranges)  
            self.get_logger().info(  
                f'Minimum distance to object: {min_distance:.2f} meters')  
        else:  
            self.get_logger().warning('No range data available.')  
  
def main(args=None):  
    """Run the laser scan listener node."""  
    rclpy.init(args=args)  
    node = LaserScanListener()  
  
    try:  
        rclpy.spin(node)  
    finally:  
        node.destroy_node()  
        rclpy.shutdown()  
  
if __name__ == '__main__':  
    main()
```

Details at:

<https://docs.ros.org/en/humble/Tutorials/Beginner-Client-Libraries/Writing-A-Simple-Py-Publisher-And-Subscriber.html>

ROS 2 PYTHON CLIENT LIBRARY (RCLPY) — PUBLISHER

```
import random
import rclpy
from rclpy.node import Node
from std_msgs.msg import String

def getName():
    names = ['John', 'Doe', 'Jane', 'Smith', 'Alice']
    return random.choice(names)

def getStatus():
    status = [
        'happy',
        'sad',
        'angry',
        'excited',
        'bored',
        'tired',
        'hungry',
        'awake',
    ]
    return random.choice(status)

class PublisherNode(Node):
    def __init__(self):
        super().__init__('publisher_node')
        self.publisher = self.create_publisher(String, '/ubbo1', 1)
        self.timer = self.create_timer(1.0, self.callback)

    def callback(self):
        msg = String()
        msg.data = '%s is %s' % (getName(), getStatus())
        self.publisher.publish(msg)
        self.get_logger().info(msg.data)

def main(args=None):
    rclpy.init(args=args)
    node = PublisherNode()

    try:
        rclpy.spin(node)
    finally:
        node.destroy_node()
        rclpy.shutdown()

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

- ▶ Create a publisher

```
self.publisher = self.create_publisher(String, '/ubbo1', 1)
```

- ▶ Create the message contents
- ▶ Publish content with

```
self.publisher.publish(msg)
```

Details at:
[Publisher/Subscriber python](#)

ROS 2 PARAMETERS

- ▶ Parameters are associated with individual nodes
- ▶ Nodes use parameters to store and retrieve configuration values at runtime
- ▶ Best used for relatively static configuration data
- ▶ Parameters can be set through:
 - ▶ command line
 - ▶ launch files
 - ▶ YAML parameter files

List parameters with

```
~$ros2 param list
```

Get values

```
~$ros2 param get /node_name parameter_name
```

Set values

```
~$ros2 param set /node_name parameter_name value
```

config.yaml

```
camera:
  ros__parameters:
    left:
      name: left_camera
      exposure: 1.0
    right:
      name: right_camera
      exposure: 1.1
```

I.e: these parameters apply to the node named camera

Python launch file

```
Node(
  package='my_package',
  executable='my_node',
  name='camera',
  parameters=['config/config.yaml']
)
```

*Details at:
[Humble parameters](#)*

ROS 2 PARAMETERS — C++ API

- ▶ Declare a parameter in C++:

```
node->declare_parameter<std::string>("topic", "chatter");
```

- ▶ Get the parameter value:

```
std::string topic;  
node->get_parameter("topic", topic);
```

`get_parameter()` returns true if the parameter exists and has the expected type; false otherwise

- ▶ Parameters belong to the node, rather than to a global parameter server
- ▶ Parameter names can use hierarchical notation:

```
node->declare_parameter<double>( "camera.left.exposure", 1.0);
```

```
double exposure;  
node->get_parameter( "camera.left.exposure", exposure);
```

```
auto node = rclcpp::Node::make_shared("camera");  
  
node->declare_parameter<std::string>( "topic", "chatter");  
  
std::string topic;  
  
if (!node->get_parameter("topic", topic))  
{  
    RCLCPP_ERROR(node->get_logger(), "Could not get topic parameter!");  
}
```

Declaration: ROS 2 nodes normally declare parameters before using them.

Details at:
[Using parameters in a class \(C++\)](#)

- ▶ 3D visualization tool for ROS 2
- ▶ Subscribes to topics and visualizes message contents
- ▶ Different camera views (orthographic, top-down, etc.)
- ▶ Interactive tools for publishing user input
- ▶ Save and load setup as RViz2 configuration (.rviz)
- ▶ Extensible with plugins
- ▶ Supports ROS 2 QoS settings for displays

Run RViz2:

```
~$rviz2
```



Details at:
[RViz2](#)

FURTHER REFERENCES

- ▶ ROS 2 Documentation
 - ▶ [ROS 2 Humble Documentation](#)
 - ▶ [ROS 2 Concepts](#)
- ▶ Installation
 - ▶ [ROS 2 Humble Installation](#)
- ▶ Tutorials
 - ▶ [ROS 2 Tutorials](#)
- ▶ Packages
 - ▶ [ROS Package Index](#)
- ▶ ROS 2 CLI
 - ▶ [ROS 2 CLI documentation](#)
- ▶ ROS2 C++ API
 - ▶ [rclcpp documentation](#)
- ▶ ROS 2 Python API
 - ▶ [rclpy documentation](#)
- ▶ ROS 2 Design
 - ▶ [ROS 2 Design documents](#)