

## Topic 2: Robot Middleware app-stracting robot hardware



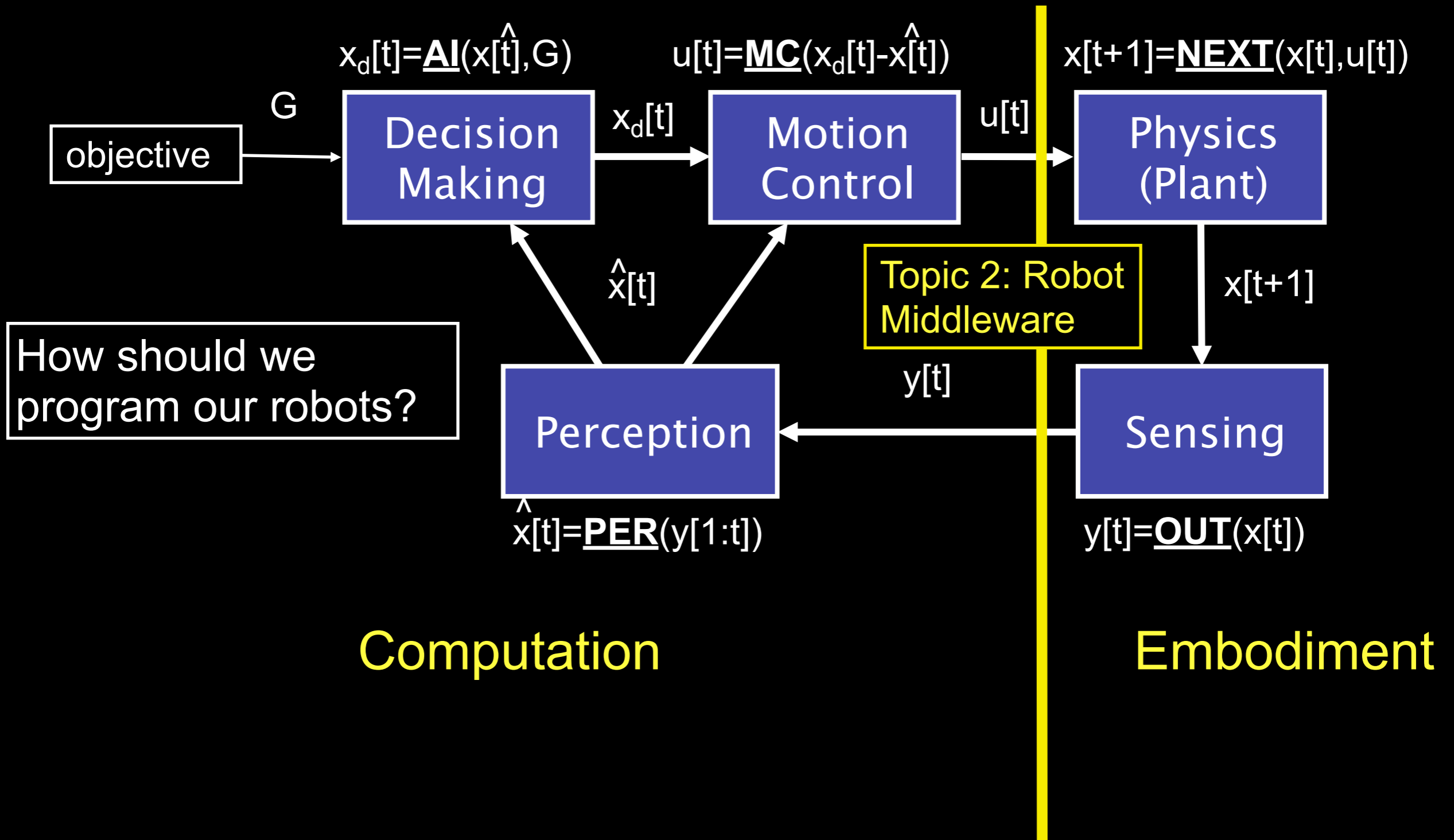
# NewScientist

Robots to get their own operating system

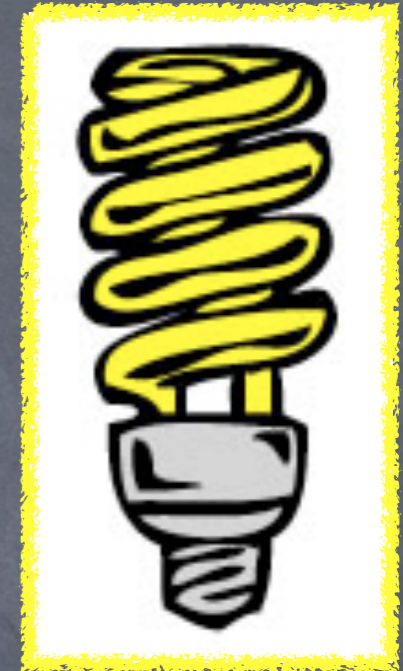
# robot control loop

- someone please sketch on the board

# The Robot Control Loop

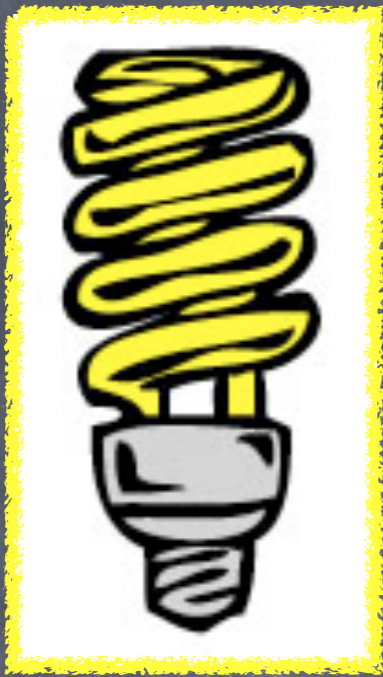


How to get your code



on this robot?



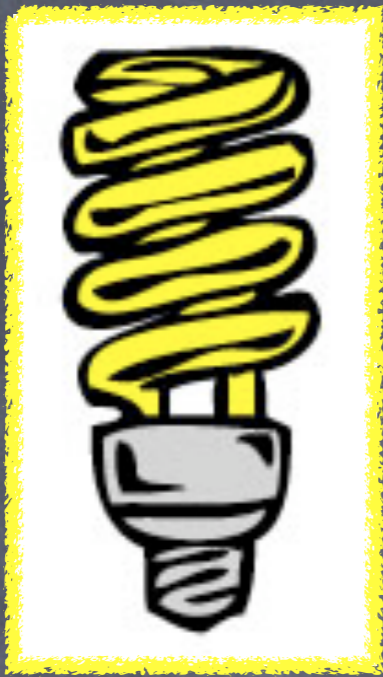


USB



USB-serial





Building and running control code to interface with these devices?



USB



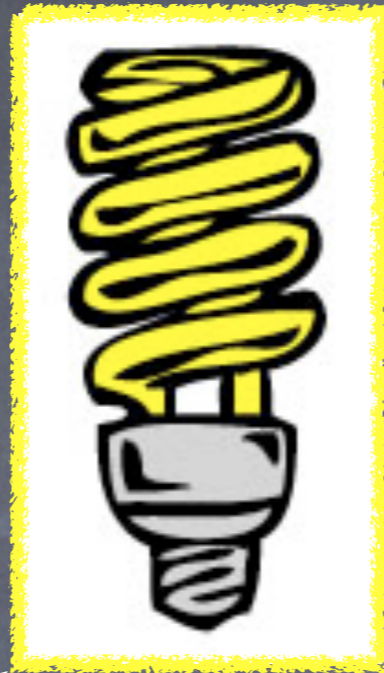
USB-serial



# Straightforward approach

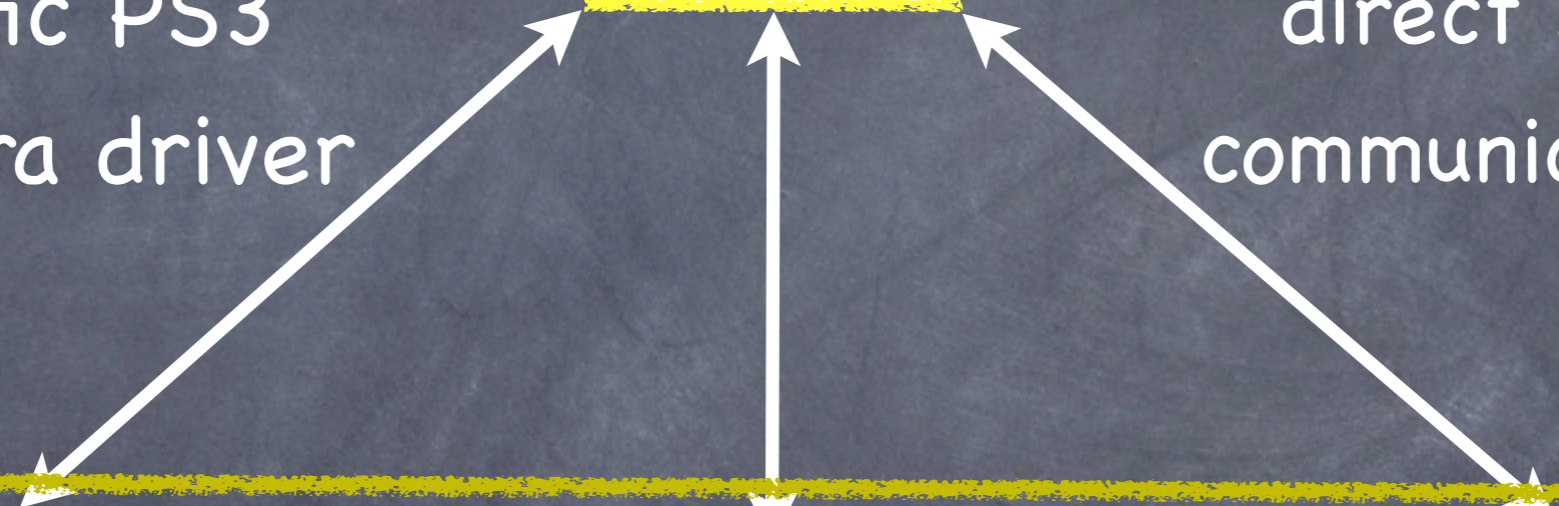
- Just write and compile a program to perform robot's "cognitive" functions
- Hardcode to specific devices?
- Scalability to growth in functionality?
- Portability to other robots?
- Reusability for other projects?
- Interoperability btwn functions/languages?
- How useful is a "one-off" solution?

# Software



specific PS3  
camera driver

direct serial  
communication



USB



USB-  
serial

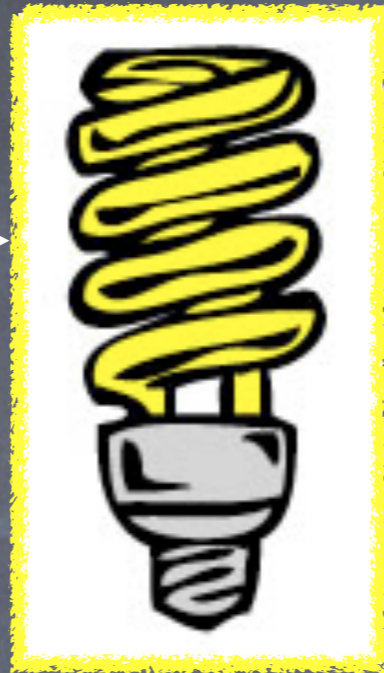


# Hardware

# Direct serial programming

- create open programming interface
- `player_comms.cc` (link)
- open serial connection
- main loop over polling create devices
- sources of latency?

video4linux,  
Gstreamer



direct serial  
communication



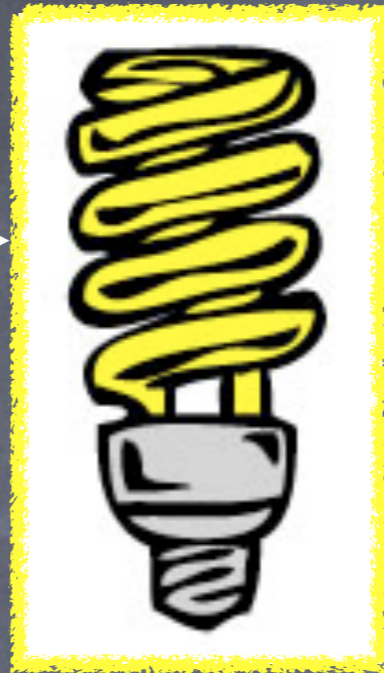
USB



USB-  
serial



video4linux,  
Gstreamer



robot  
middleware



USB

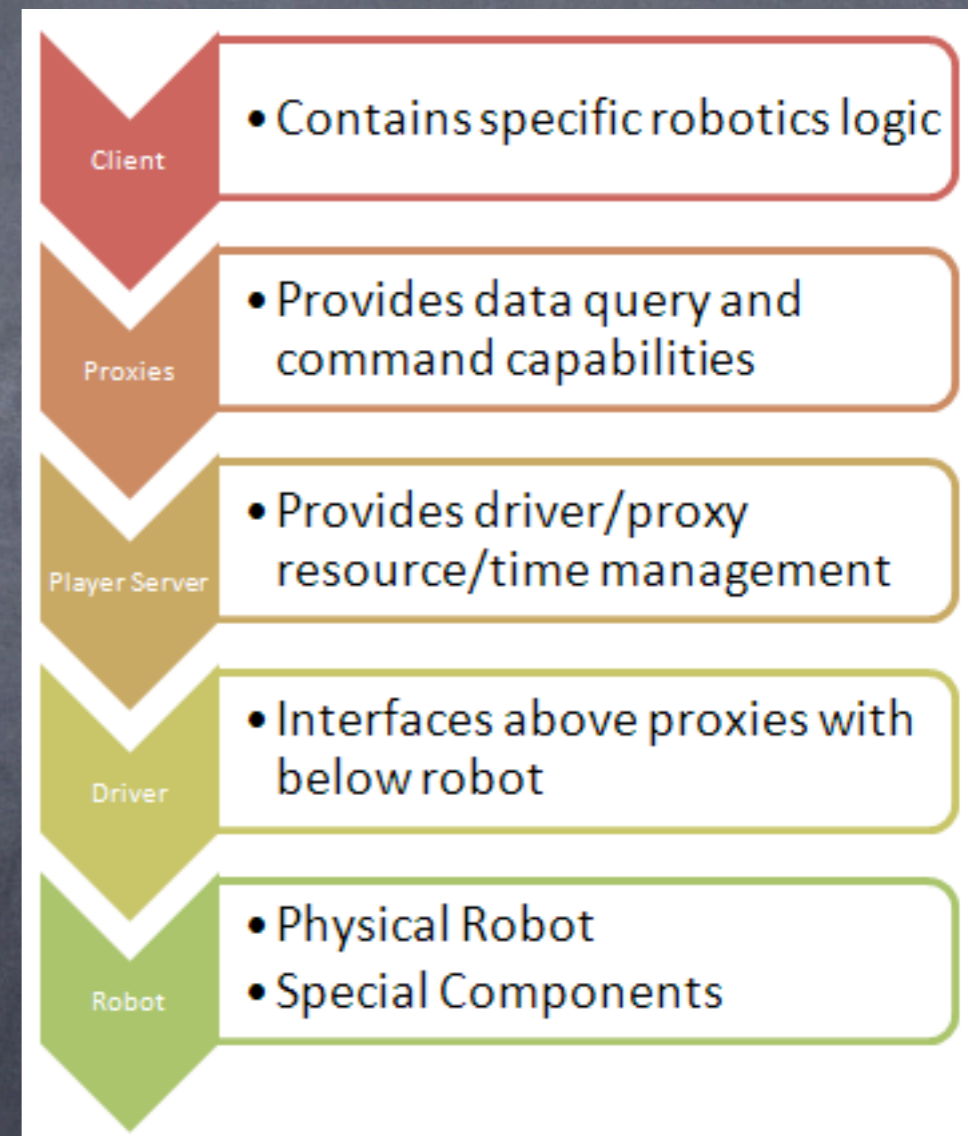


USB-  
serial



# Robot Middleware

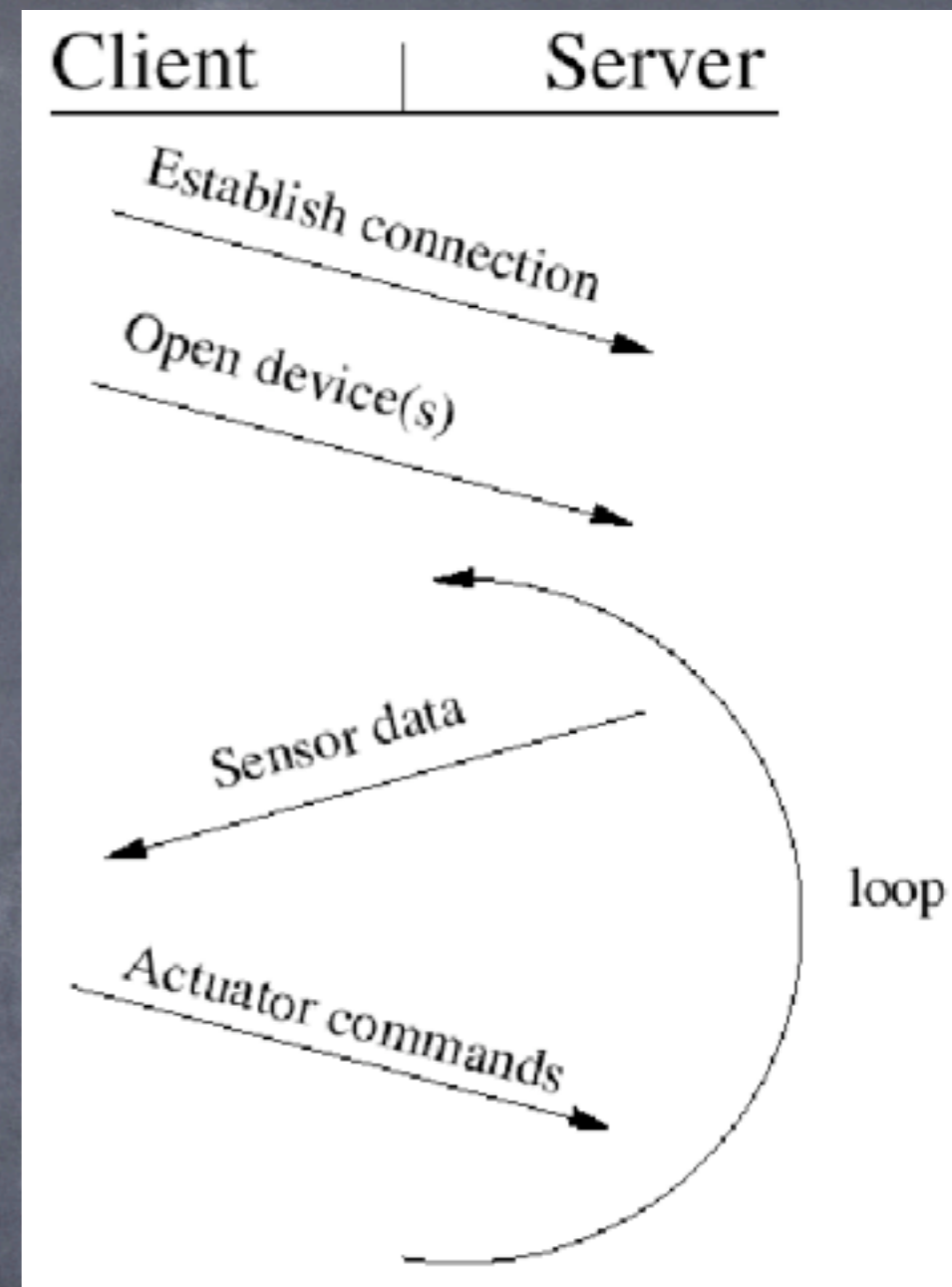
- Provide an abstraction layer and drivers between computation and embodiment
  - Analogy: hardware abstraction layer in an operating system
- Several existing packages
  - Player: client/server model
  - ROS: peer-to-peer model



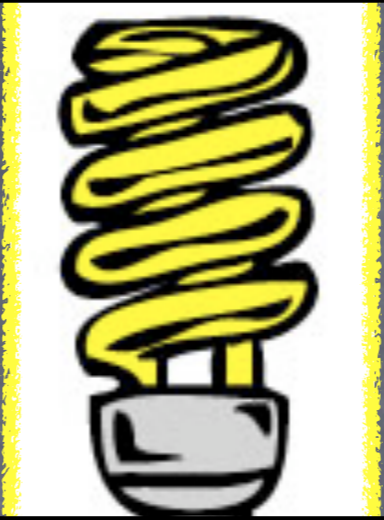
# Player

(playerstage.sourceforge.net)

- Client-server architecture
- Publish-subscribe messaging
- Server runs on robot
  - exposes devices as proxies
  - publishes data continuously
- Clients (applications) access server
  - subscribe to robot proxies
  - read(), compute, set vars, read()



custom controller



Player robot client

subscribe

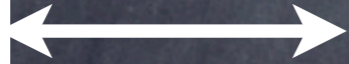


publish

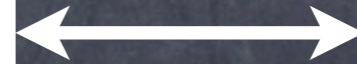


Player robot server

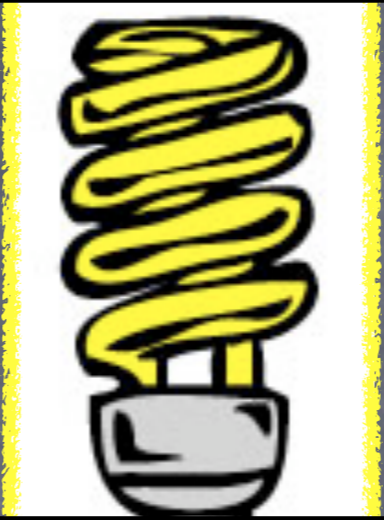
USB



USB-serial



custom controller



Player robot client



Player robot server



USB  
PS3 cam driver



USB-serial  
Create driver



custom controller



camera proxy

Player robot client

position2d proxy



Player robot server



PS3 cam driver



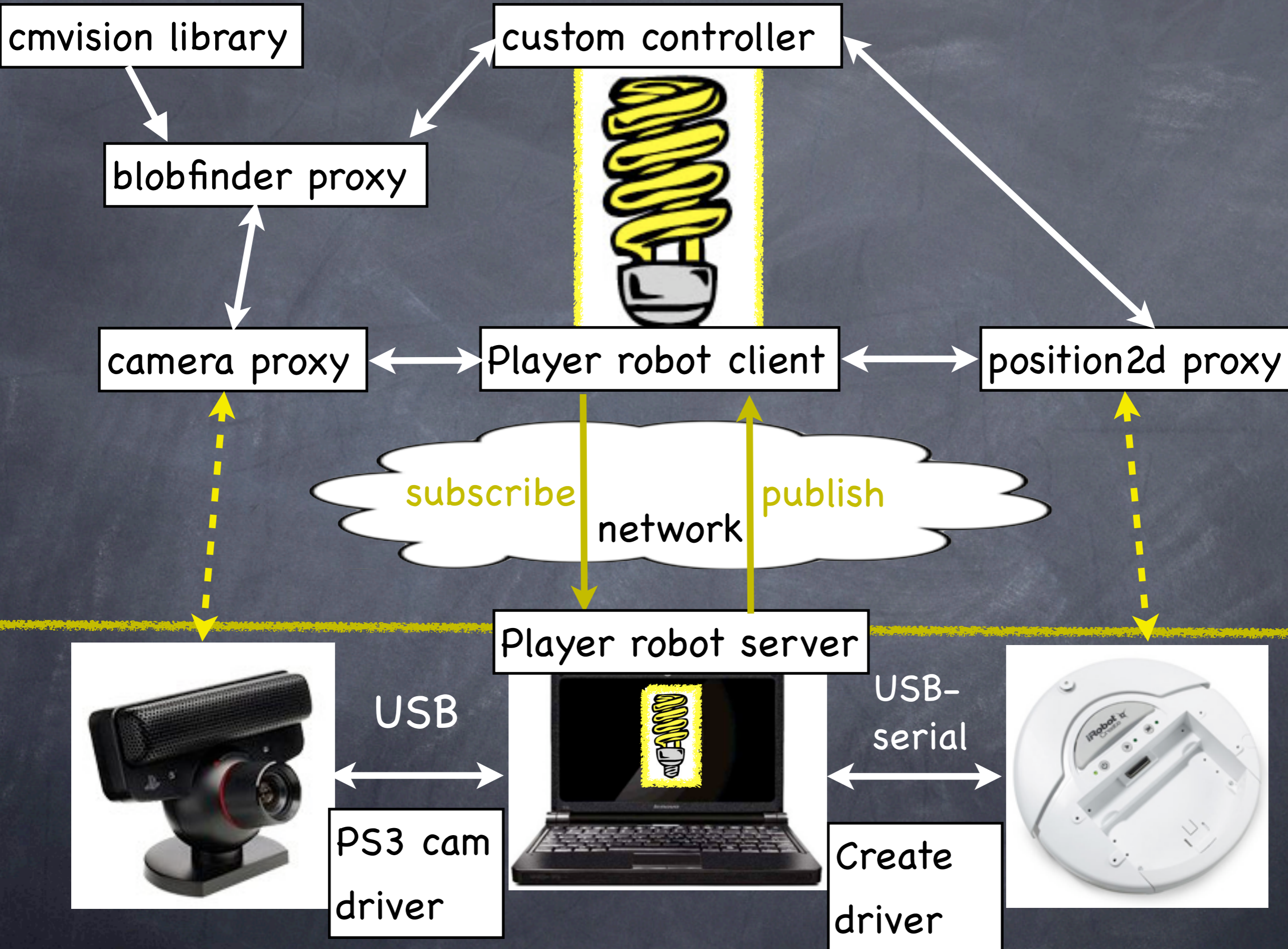
Create driver



USB

USB-serial

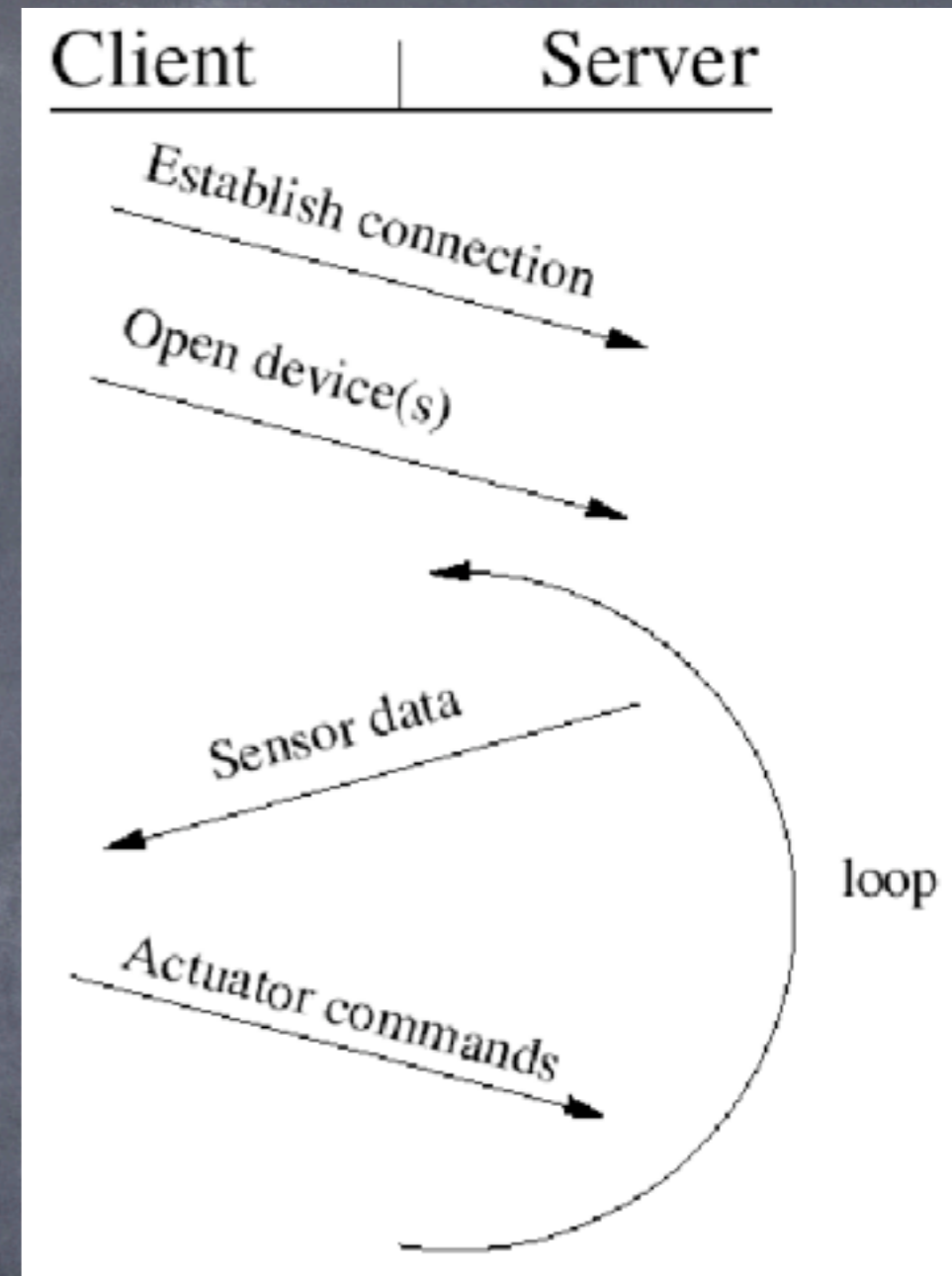




# Player

(playerstage.sourceforge.net)

- Messaging via network (TCP/IP)
  - no dependence on prog. lang
  - client libraries (eg, libplayerc)
- Proxies expose interfaces to both
  - hardware devices
  - existing implemented algorithms
- Player was the default pkg for cs148



# Player proxies

- what proxies would we have for this mobile robot?
  - sketch on board
- how could a client make it move and react to obstacles?



# Player proxies

- Proxies of interest
  - position2d: planar movement and odometry
  - bumper
  - ir: virtual walls, floor detect
  - cameraaucv: usb camera
  - camera1394: firewire camera
  - blobfinder: color recognition



- “player” server with cfg file
- “make” to build client; link to libplayerc
- run client anywhere on network

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include "playerc.h"

int main(int argc, const char **argv)
{
    int i;
    playerc_client_t *client;
    playerc_position_t *position;

    // Create a client object and connect to the server; the server must
    // be running on "localhost" at port 6665
    client = playerc_client_create(NULL, "localhost", 6665);
    if (playerc_client_connect(client) != 0)
    {
        fprintf(stderr, "error: %s\n", playerc_error_str());
        return -1;
    }

    // Create a position proxy (device id "position:0") and subscribe
    // in read/write mode
    position = playerc_position_create(client, 0);
    if (playerc_position_subscribe(position, PLAYER_ALL_MODE) != 0)
    {
        fprintf(stderr, "error: %s\n", playerc_error_str());
        return -1;
    }

    // Enable the robots motors
    playerc_position_enable(position, 1);

    // Start the robot turning slowly
    playerc_position_set_cmd_vel(position, 0, 0, 0.1, 1);

    for (i = 0; i < 200; i++)
    {
        // Read data from the server and display current robot position
        playerc_client_read(client);
        printf("position : %f %f %f\n",
            position->px, position->py, position->pa);
    }

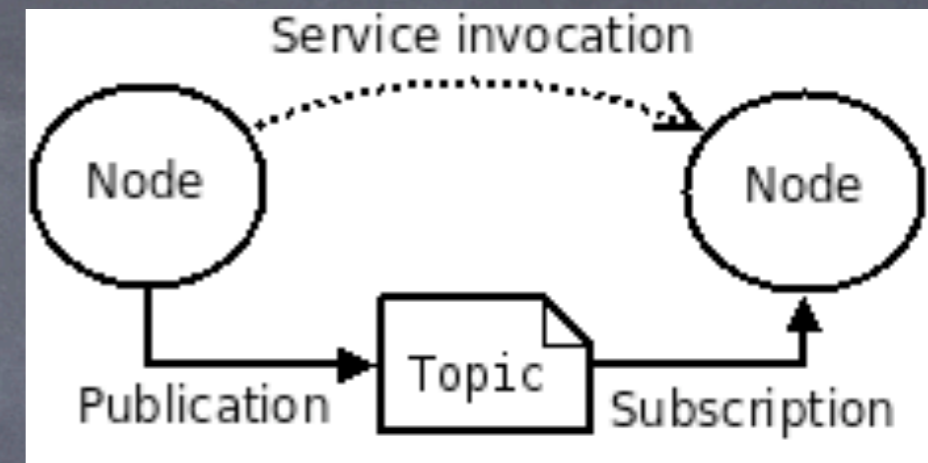
    // Shutdown and tidy up
    playerc_position_unsubscribe(position);
    playerc_position_destroy(position);
    playerc_client_disconnect(client);
    playerc_client_destroy(client);

    return 0;
}
```

• add compile line

# ROS (ros.org)

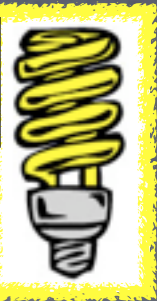
- “Robot Operating System”
- Peer-to-peer architecture over network
- Every robot function (processing) is a node
  - Node essentially its own executing process
- Nodes subscribe to and publish on topics
  - Master node runs topic name service
- Topics: basic message structure for published data
- Services for request-reply communication



cmvision library

blobfinder node

custom controller



controller node

ROS Master

Each node is a separate process.

Nodes talk directly to each other over network.

camera node



PS3 cam driver

USB



USB-serial

Create node



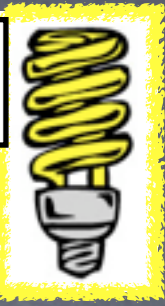
Create driver

cmvision library

publish  
"blobs"

subscribe  
"blobs"

custom controller



blobfinder node

controller node

publish  
"twist"

subscribe  
"image"

ROS Master

Nodes publish and subscribe to topics.

subscribe  
"twist"

publish  
"image"

camera node

Create node

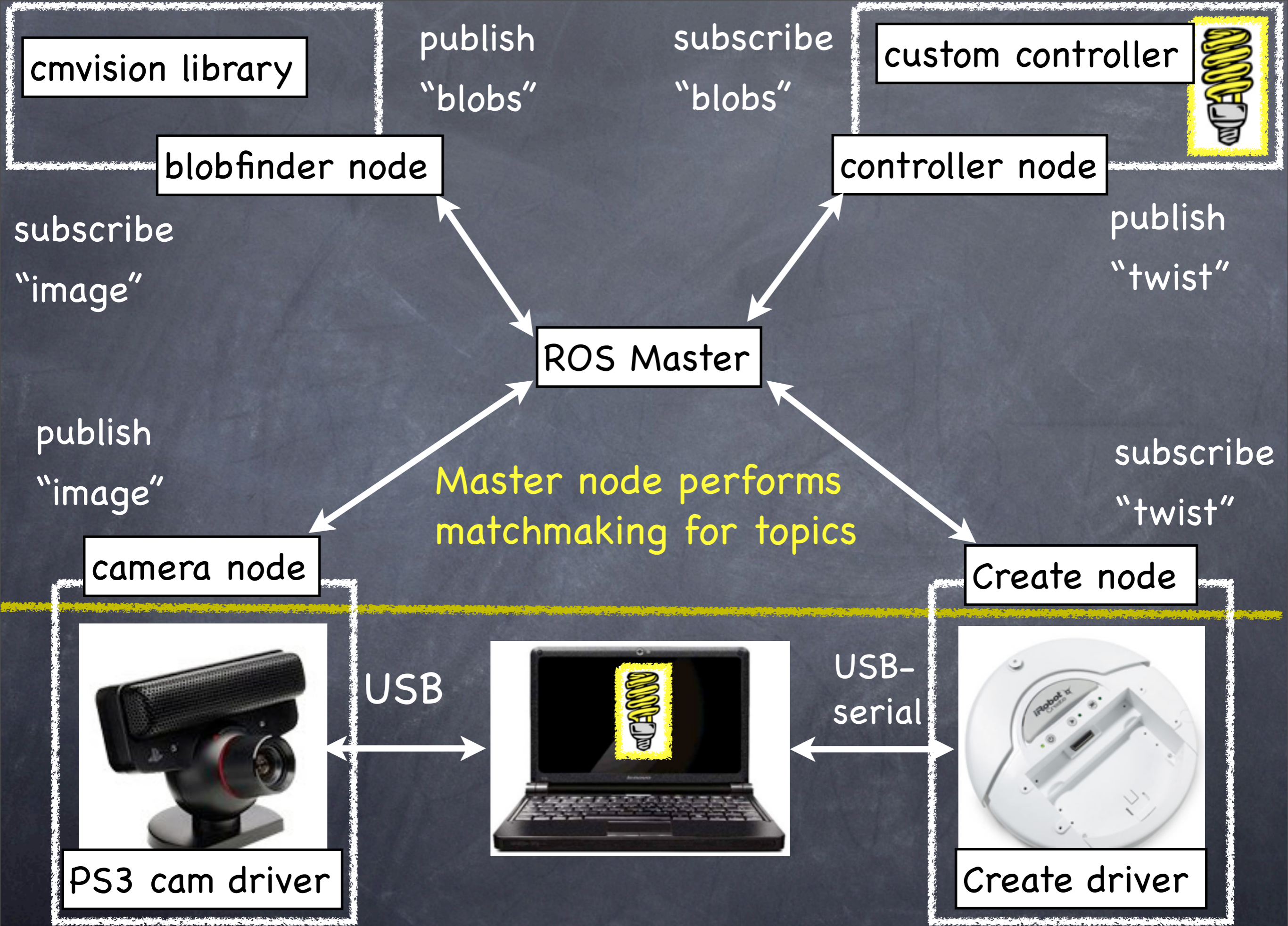


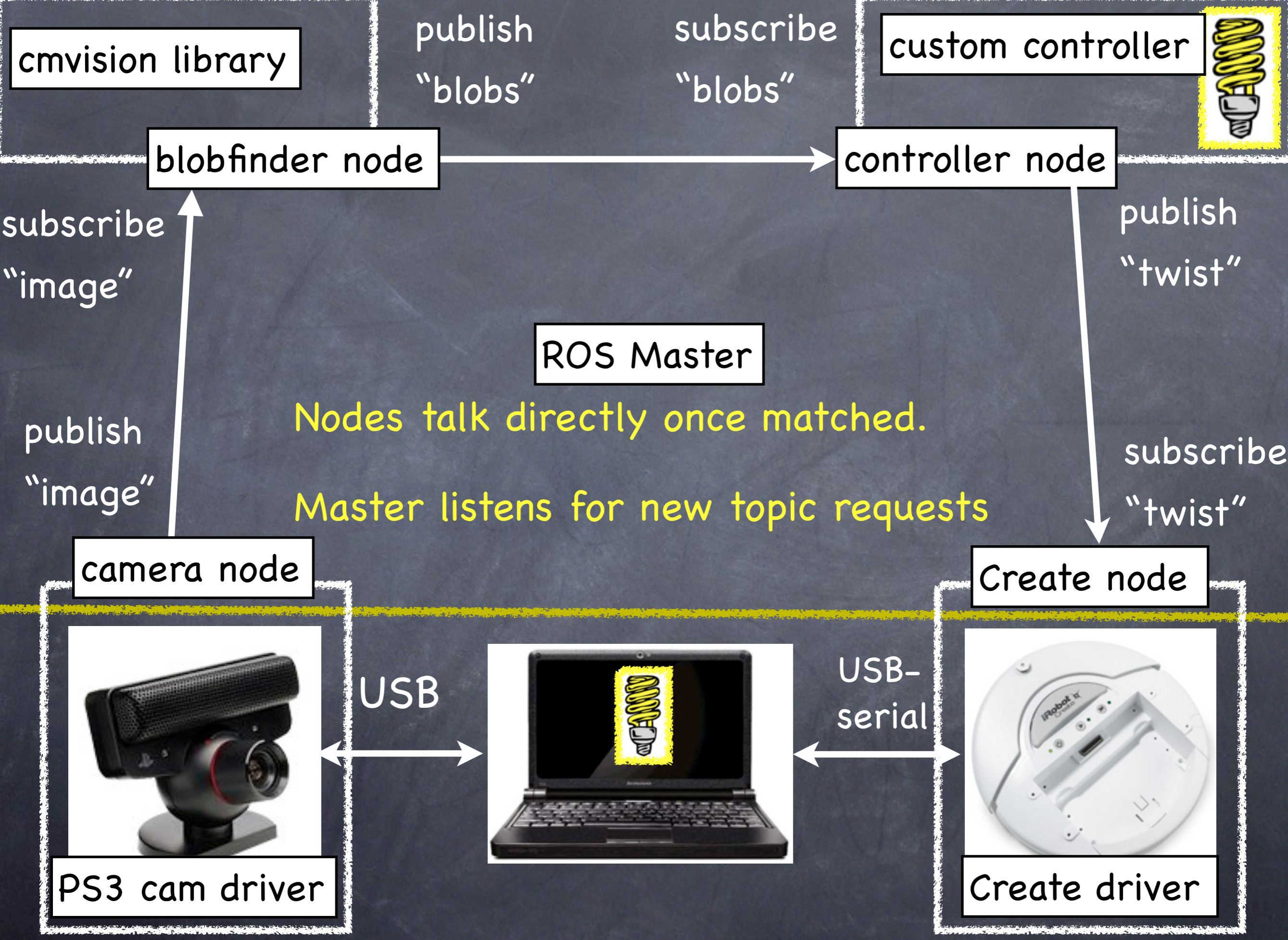
USB

USB-  
serial

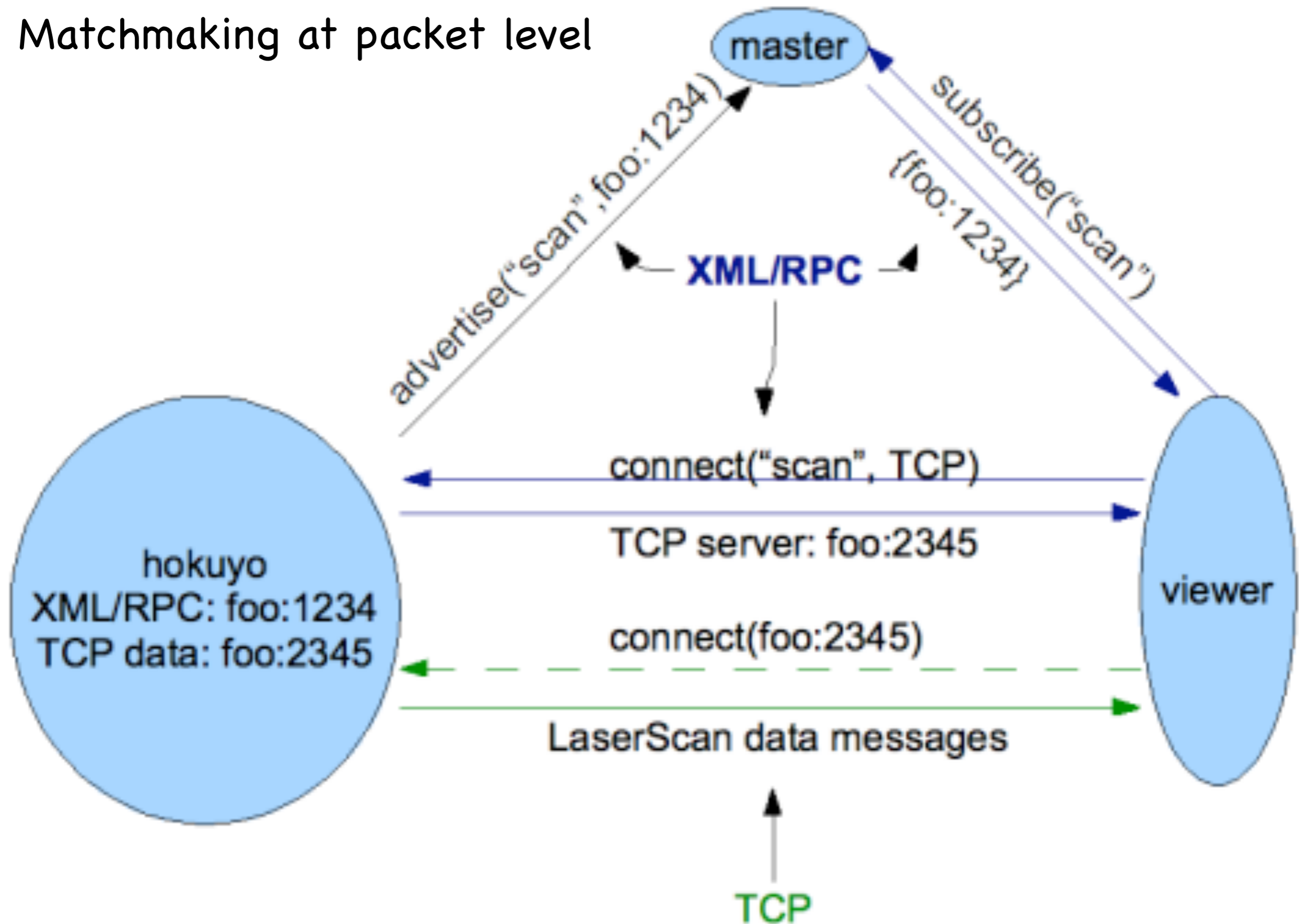
PS3 cam driver

Create driver





# Matchmaking at packet level



# ROS: as a development environment

- Each project will be a “package”, ROS’s basic dev unit
  - Packages are built essentially by CMake
- Client libraries (eg, roscpp, rospy, rosjs, rosjava)
- Package management: integrated build system
  - `roscat` to create a package
  - `rosmake` to build, `roslaunch` to execute nodes
- Integration of external packages and repositories
  - OpenCV, OpenRAVE, Player, etc.
- `roscpp` contains drivers for Create, PS3 cam...

```
#!/usr/bin/env python
import roslib; roslib.load_manifest('hello_create')
import rospy
#from std_msgs.msg import String
from geometry_msgs.msg import Twist
# listen
from irobot_create_2_1.msg import SensorPacket
# global variables
bump = False

# listen (adapted from line_follower
def processSensing(sensorPacket):
    global bump
    bump = sensorPacket.bumpLeft or sensorPacket.bumpRight
    #newInfo = True

def create_spin_and_bump():
    pub = rospy.Publisher('cmd_vel', Twist)
    rospy.Subscriber('sensorPacket', SensorPacket, processSensing)
    rospy.init_node('create_spin_and_bump')
    #listen
    global bump
    twist = Twist()
    while not rospy.is_shutdown():
        if bump:
            str = "hello create, you have bumped into something %s"%rospy.get_time()
            rospy.loginfo(str)
            twist.linear.x = 0.0; twist.linear.y = 0; twist.linear.z = 0
            twist.angular.x = 0; twist.angular.y = 0; twist.angular.z = -0.5
            bump = False
        else:
            str = "hello create, you can spin now %s"%rospy.get_time()
            rospy.loginfo(str)
            twist.linear.x = 0.1; twist.linear.y = 0; twist.linear.z = 0
            twist.angular.x = 0; twist.angular.y = 0; twist.angular.z = 0.5
            pub.publish(twist)
            rospy.sleep(1.0)
if __name__ == '__main__':
    try:
        create_spin_and_bump()
    except rospy.ROSInterruptException: pass
```

invoke python

# My first python program "hello\_create"

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python includes

My first  
python program  
"hello\_create"

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import topic  
definitions

# My first python program "hello\_create"

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start event loop for  
create\_spin\_and\_bump()

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initialize node and topics

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```

initialize node and topics

publish twist messages  
for Create's "cmd\_vel" topic

# My first python program "hello\_create"

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        bump = False
    else:
        str = "hello create, you can spin now %s"%rospy.get_time()
        rospy.loginfo(str)
        twist.linear.x = 0.1; twist.linear.y = 0; twist.linear.z = 0
        twist.angular.x = 0; twist.angular.y = 0; twist.angular.z = 0.5
        pub.publish(twist)
        rospy.sleep(1.0)
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```

initialize node and topics

subscription to Create's sensorPacket topic,  
spawns message handler thread

# My first python program "hello\_create"

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# listen
from irobot_create_2_1.msg import SensorPacket
# global variables
bump = False

# listen (adapted from line_follower
def processSensing(sensorPacket):
    global bump
    bump = sensorPacket.bumpLeft or sensorPacket.bumpRight
    #newInfo = True

def create_spin_and_bump():
    pub = rospy.Publisher('cmd_vel', Twist)
    rospy.Subscriber('sensorPacket', SensorPacket, processSensing)
    rospy.init_node('create_spin_and_bump')
#listen
global bump
twist = Twist()
while not rospy.is_shutdown():
    if bump:
        str = "hello create, you have bumped into something %s"%rospy.get_time()
        rospy.loginfo(str)
        twist.linear.x = 0.0; twist.linear.y = 0; twist.linear.z = 0
        twist.angular.x = 0; twist.angular.y = 0; twist.angular.z = -0.5
        bump = False
    else:
        str = "hello create, you can spin now %s"%rospy.get_time()
        rospy.loginfo(str)
        twist.linear.x = 0.1; twist.linear.y = 0; twist.linear.z = 0
        twist.angular.x = 0; twist.angular.y = 0; twist.angular.z = 0.5
        pub.publish(twist)
        rospy.sleep(1.0)
if __name__ == '__main__':
    try:
        create_spin_and_bump()
    except rospy.ROSInterruptException: pass
```

initialize node and topics

register node with master

# My first python program "hello\_create"

```
#!/usr/bin/env python
import roslib; roslib.load_manifest('hello_create')
import rospy
#from std_msgs.msg import String
from geometry_msgs.msg import Twist
# listen
from irobot_create_2_1.msg import SensorPacket
# global variables
bump = False

# listen (adapted from line_follower
def processSensing(sensorPacket):
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            twist.angular.x = 0; twist.angular.y = 0; twist.angular.z = -0.5
            bump = False
        else:
            str = "hello create, you can spin now %s"%rospy.get_time()
            rospy.loginfo(str)
            twist.linear.x = 0.1; twist.linear.y = 0; twist.linear.z = 0
            twist.angular.x = 0; twist.angular.y = 0; twist.angular.z = 0.5
            pub.publish(twist)
            rospy.sleep(1.0)
if __name__ == '__main__':
    try:
        create_spin_and_bump()
    except rospy.ROSInterruptException: pass
```

allocate and initialize variables

# My first python program "hello\_create"

```
#!/usr/bin/env python
import roslib; roslib.load_manifest('hello_create')
import rospy
#from std_msgs.msg import String
from geometry_msgs.msg import Twist
# listen
from irobot_create_2_1.msg import SensorPacket
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            twist.angular.x = 0; twist.angular.y = 0; twist.angular.z = 0.5
            pub.publish(twist)
            rospy.sleep(1.0)
if __name__ == '__main__':
    try:
        create_spin_and_bump()
    except rospy.ROSInterruptException: pass
```

handle event for  
subscribed topic

event loop

publish control

DO NOT USE sleep

# My first python program "hello\_create"

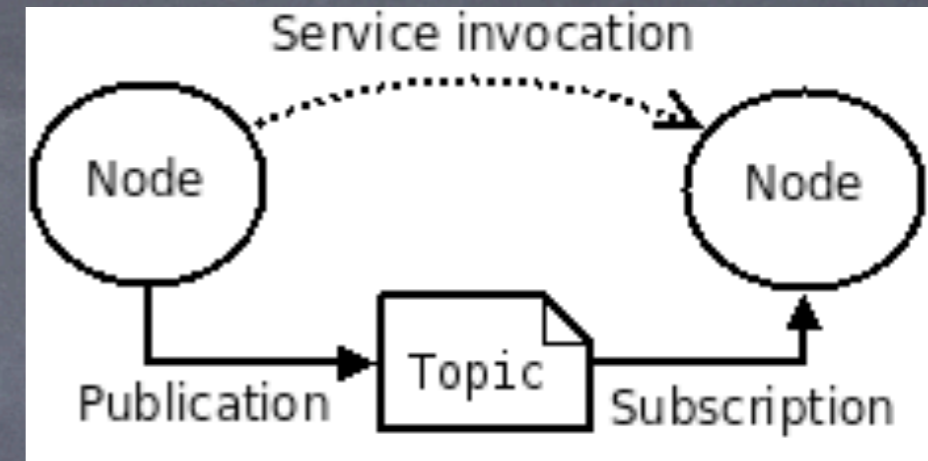
```
#!/usr/bin/env python
import roslib; roslib.load_manifest('hello_create')
import rospy
#from std_msgs.msg import String
from geometry_msgs.msg import Twist
# listen
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            pub.publish(twist)
            rospy.sleep(1.0)
if __name__ == '__main__':
    try:
        create_spin_and_bump()
    except rospy.ROSInterruptException: pass
```

What behavior  
will this node  
produce?

# ROS (ros.org)



- WARNING! ROS can be a moving target
  - ROS stability issues, adaptation may be necessary
    - C-Turtle is considered stable
  - we will be learning with you during projects
  - extensive use of ROS mailing list (ros-users) and online documentation (ros.org)