

Bridging Automation and Robotics

An Interprocess Communication between IEC 61131-3 and ROS

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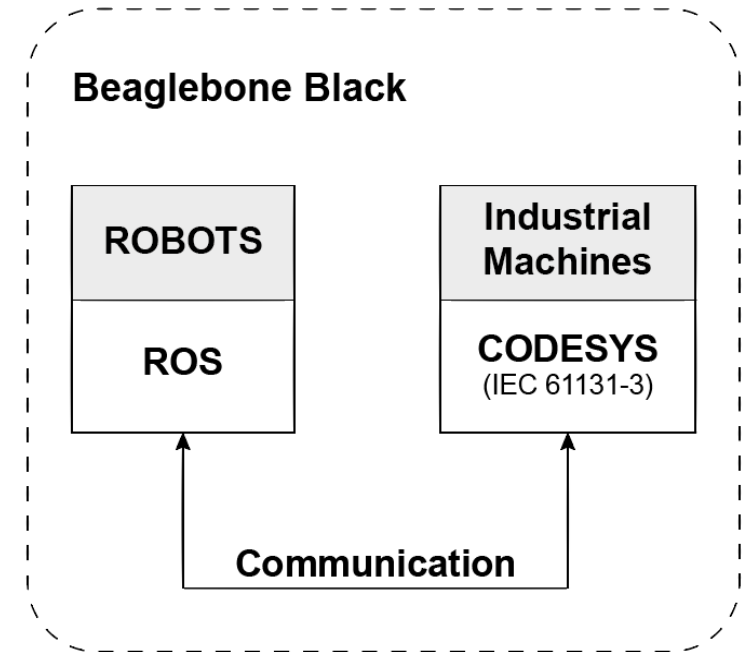
Concept

- **Problem:**

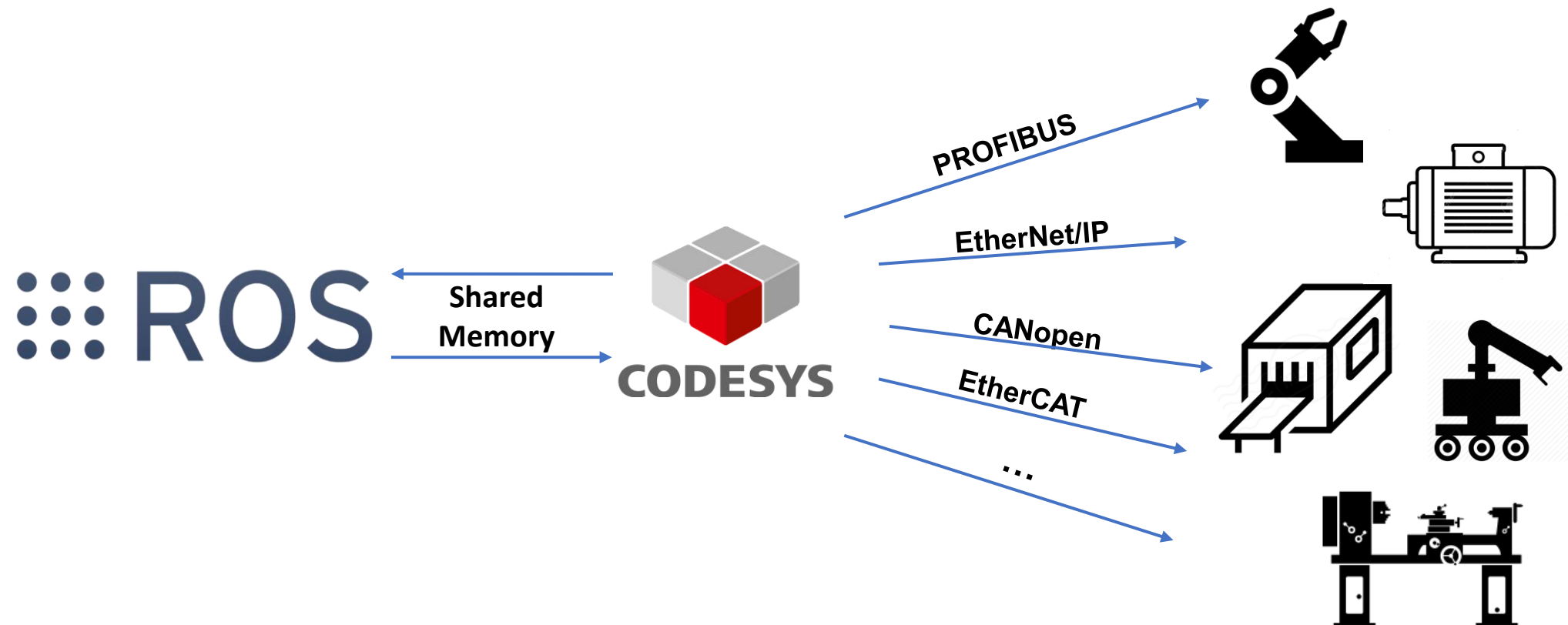
- Robot re-programming by automation technicians who do not have the required skills to delve into complicated robot systems.
- Implementing **multi-vendor and multi-protocol communication** between ROS and industrial equipment.
- Time consumed programming drivers for actuators.

- **Solution:**

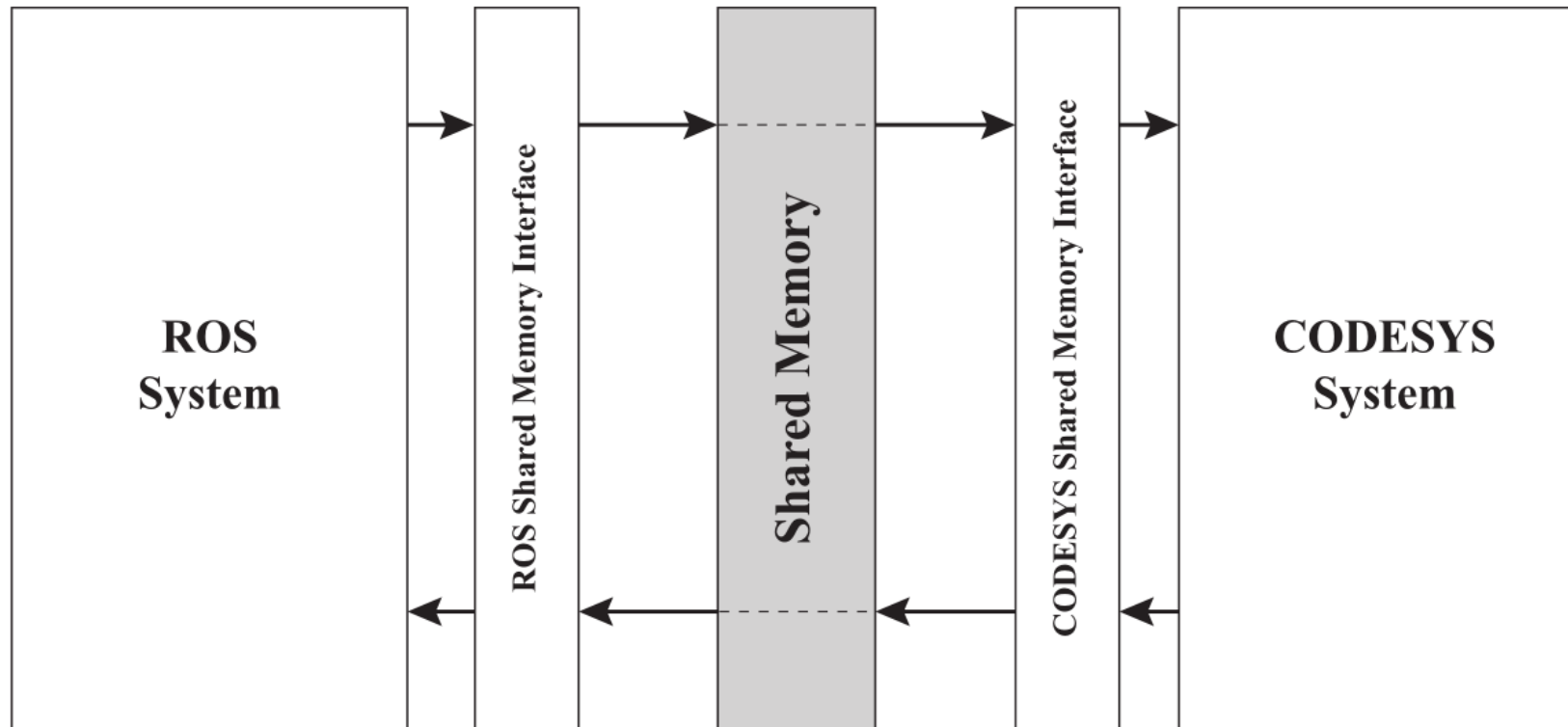
- Embedded System Development with ROS and CODESYS softPLC Integration



ROS – CODESYS Communication

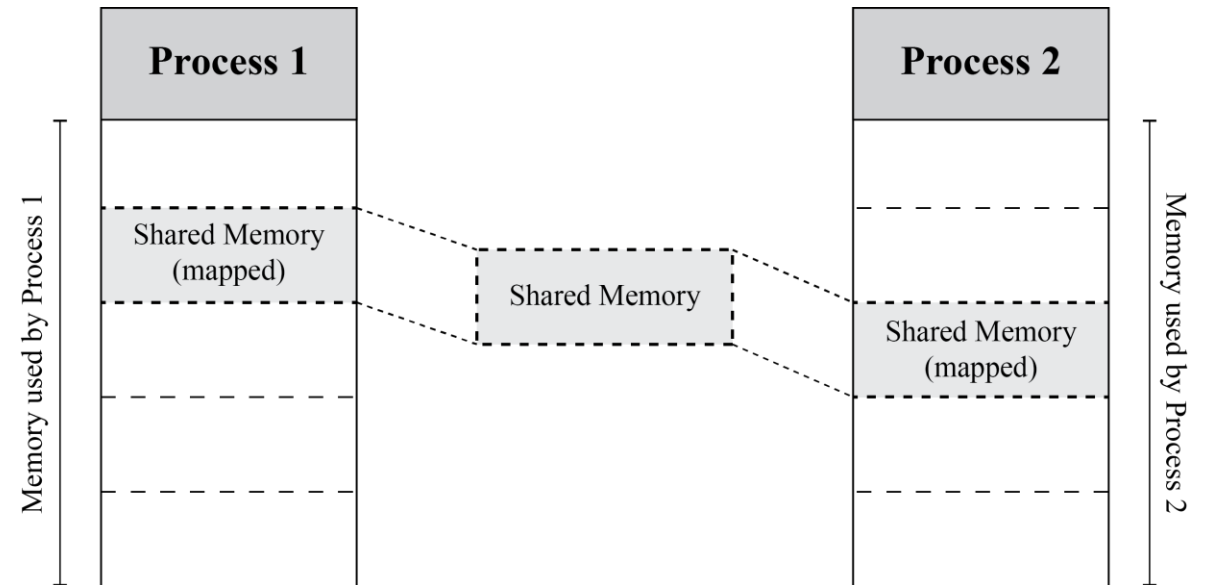


Architecture of the system

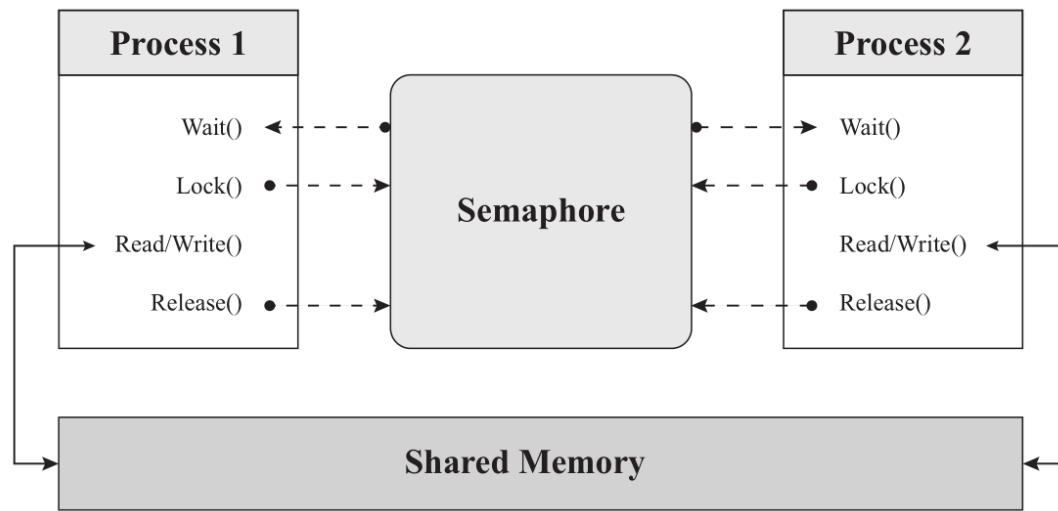


POSIX Shared Memory

- CODESYS Provides implementation function for the **POSIX Named Shared Memory**.
- It is known as **the fastest way of passing data** between two processes on the same host system.
- This method needs a synchronization mechanism.



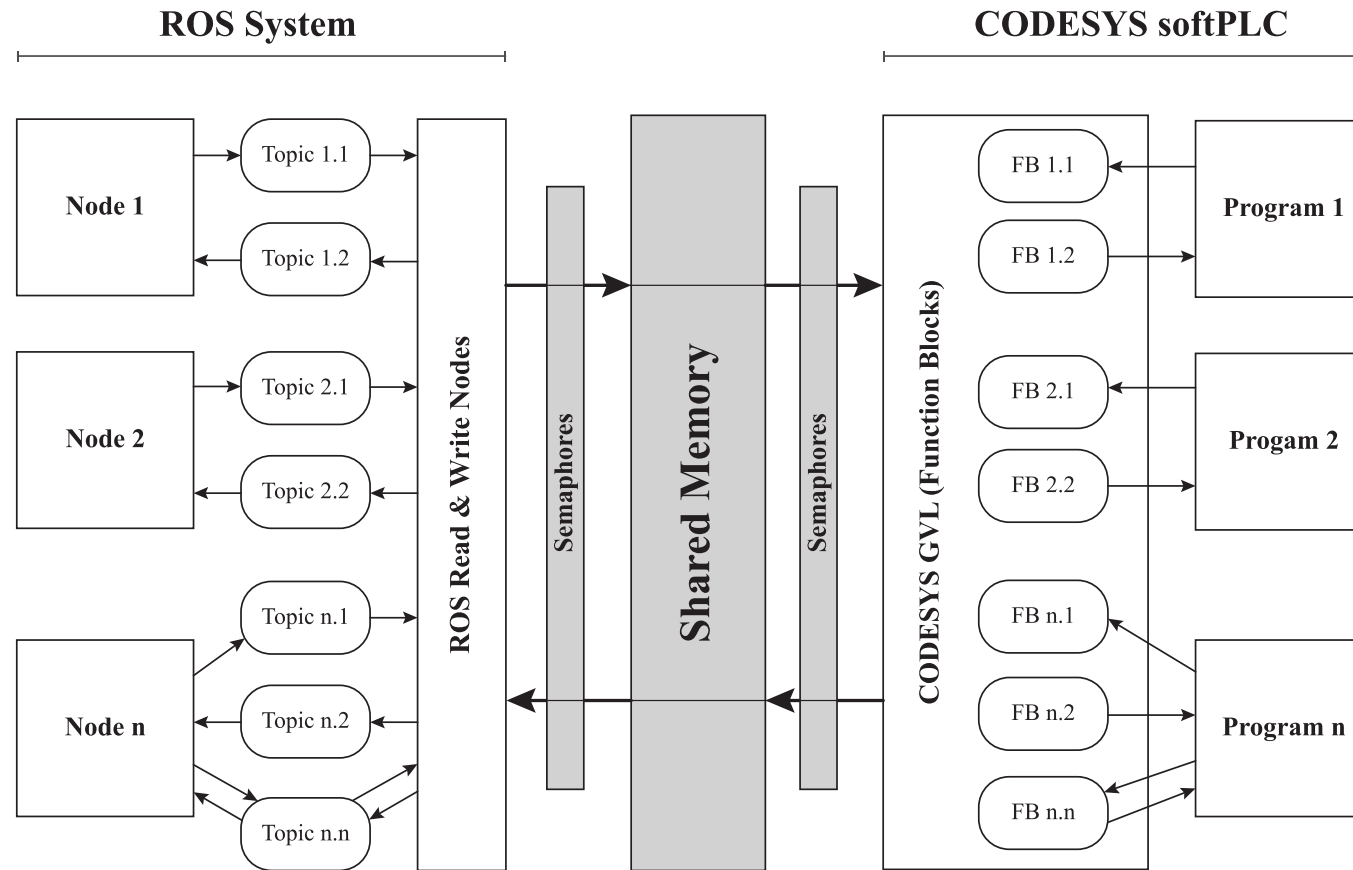
Access Synchronization



- CODESYS has a library with ***Semaphore*** functions.
- This library implements the **POSIX Named Semaphores**.
- **Can be implemented both on ROS and CODESYS**

T. Pinto, R Arrais and G. Veiga, "Bridging Automation and Robotics: an Interprocess Communication between IEC 61131-3 and ROS", 2018 IEEE 16th International Conference on Industrial Informatics (INDIN), Porto, 2018. In Press.

Architecture of the system



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ROS Messages to IEC 61131-3 Data Types

```

1  string first_name
2  string last_name
3  uint8 age

```

```

4  VAR
5      first_name : STRING[100];
6      last_name : STRING[100];
7      age : USINT;
8  END_VAR

```

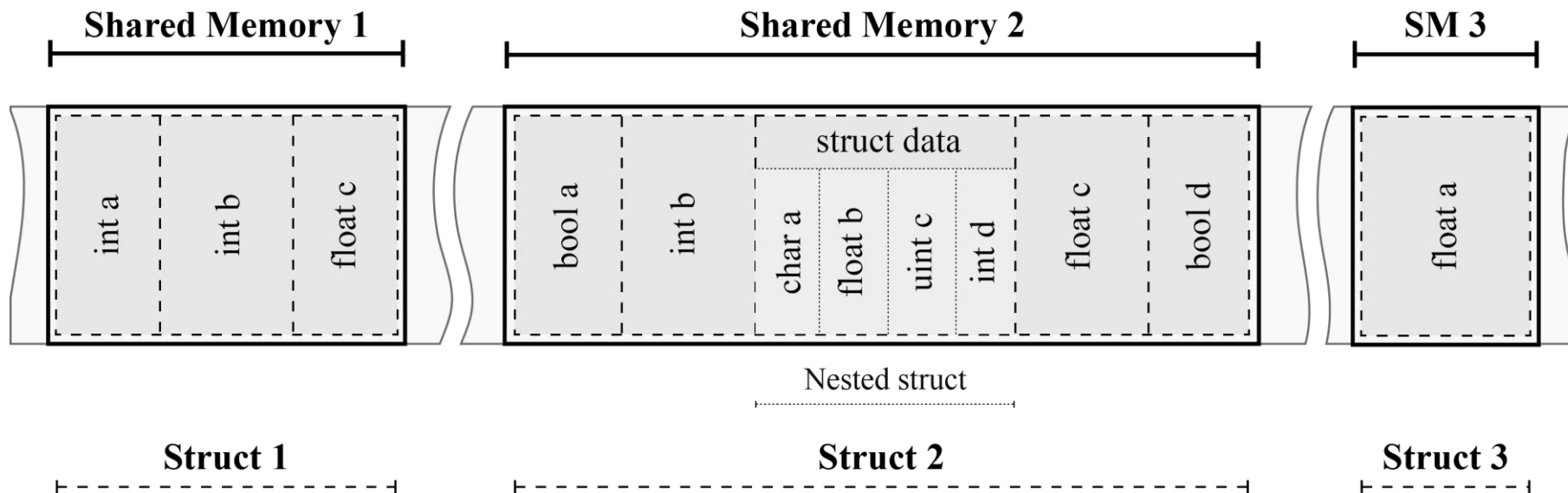
Description	ROS Messages Primitive Type	C++	IEC 61131-3
Unsigned 8-bit Integer	bool	uint8_t	USINT
Signed 8-bit Integer	int8	int8_t	SINT
Unsigned 8-bit Integer	uint8	uint8_t	USINT
Signed 16-bit Integer	int16	int16_t	INT
Unsigned 16-bit Integer	uint16	uint16_t	UDINT
Signed 32-bit Integer	int32	int32_t	DINT
Unsigned 32-bit Integer	uint32	uint32_t	UDINT
Signed 64-bit Integer	int64	int64_t	LINT
Unsigned 64-bit Integer	uint64	uint64_t	ULINT
32-bit IEEE Float	float32	float	REAL
64-bit IEEE Float	float64	double	LREAL
ASCII String	string	std::string	STRING
Time (secs/nsecs)	time	ros::Time	TIME
Time (secs/nsecs)	duration	ros::Duration	TIME

Converted to Bool
on CODESYS

Converted to a fixed length array
of char on ROS implementation

Mapping data structures

- **ROS Messages** are organized into structures
- **IEC61131-3** also supports structures



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Implemented ROS Messages

std_msgs:

- Already implemented

common_msgs:

- Almost all implemented
- Problem with variable length arrays on CODESYS

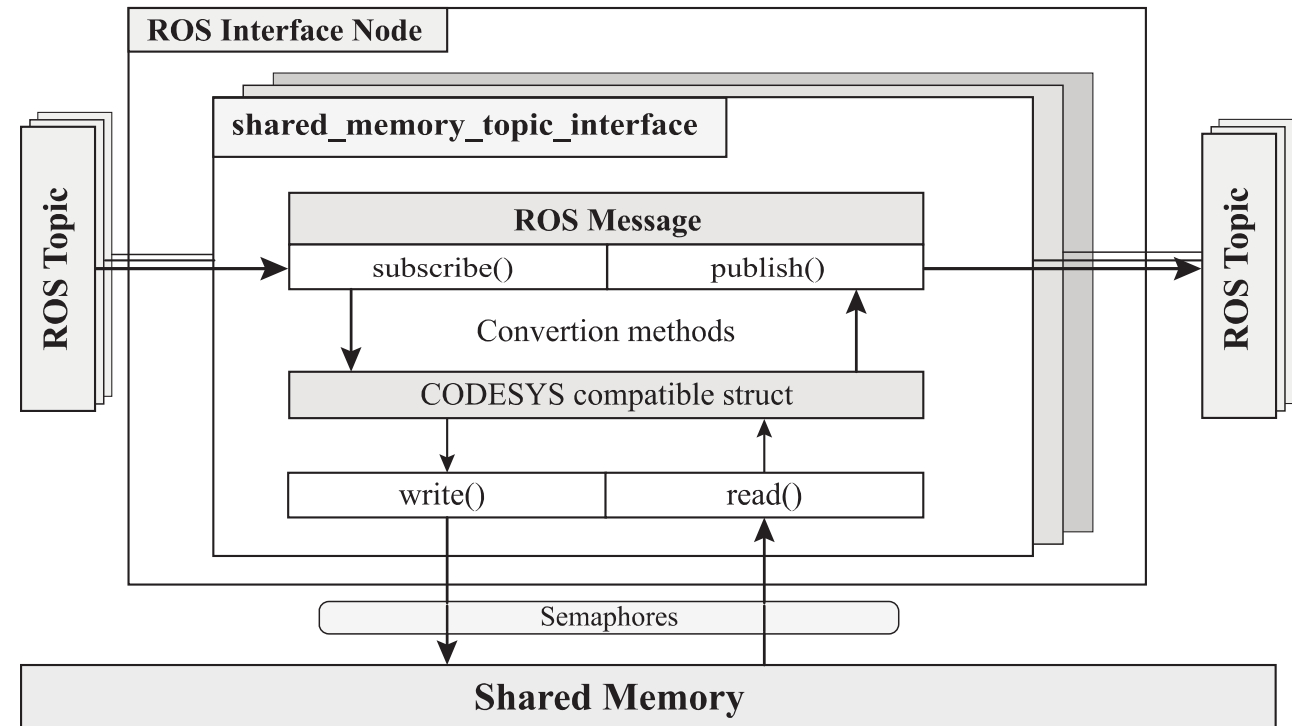
Custom messages:

- Needs to be implemented by the user.
- Will be automated in the future.

ROS StandardMessages	ROS Common Messages		
Bool	actionlib_msgs	geometry_msgs	sensor_msgs
Byte	GoalID	Accel	BatteryState
ByteMultiArray	GoalStatus	AccelWithCovariance	CameraInfo
Char	GoalStatusArray	Inertia	ChannelFloat32
ColorRGBA		Point	CompressedImage
Duration		Point32	FluidPressure
Empty	diagnostic_msgs	Polygon	Illuminance
Float32	DiagnosticArray	Pose	Image
Float64	DiagnosticStatus	Pose2D	Imu
Header	KeyValue	PoseArray	JointState
Int16		PoseWithCovariance	Joy
Int32		Quaternion	JoyFeedback
Int64	nav_msgs	Transform	LaserEcho
Int8	GridCells	Twist	LaserScan
String	MapMetaData	TwistWithCovariance	MagneticField
Time	OccupancyGrid	Vector3	MultiDOFJointState
UInt16	Odometry	Wrench	MultiEchoLaserScan
UInt32	Path		NavSatFix
UInt64			NavSatStatus
UInt8			PointCloud

Implementation on ROS

- **Topic based** implementation.
- **Automatic shared memory writing** on subscribing callback.
- **Automatic publishing** of the data read from the shared memory.
- Shared Memory access synchronization by semaphores.



Usage on ROS – Writing on the Shared Memory

```
10 PoseStamped_SharedMemory poseStampedSMW("poseStampedWrite_example", WRITE);  
11 UInt16_SharedMemory uint16SMW("uint16Write_example", WRITE, PRINT);  
12 String_SharedMemory stringSMW("stringWrite_example", WRITE, NOPRINT);
```

```
14 while (ros::ok())  
15 {  
16     poseStampedSMW.memoryWrite();  
17     uint16SMW.memoryWrite();  
18     stringSMW.memoryWrite();  
19     ros::spin();  
20 }
```

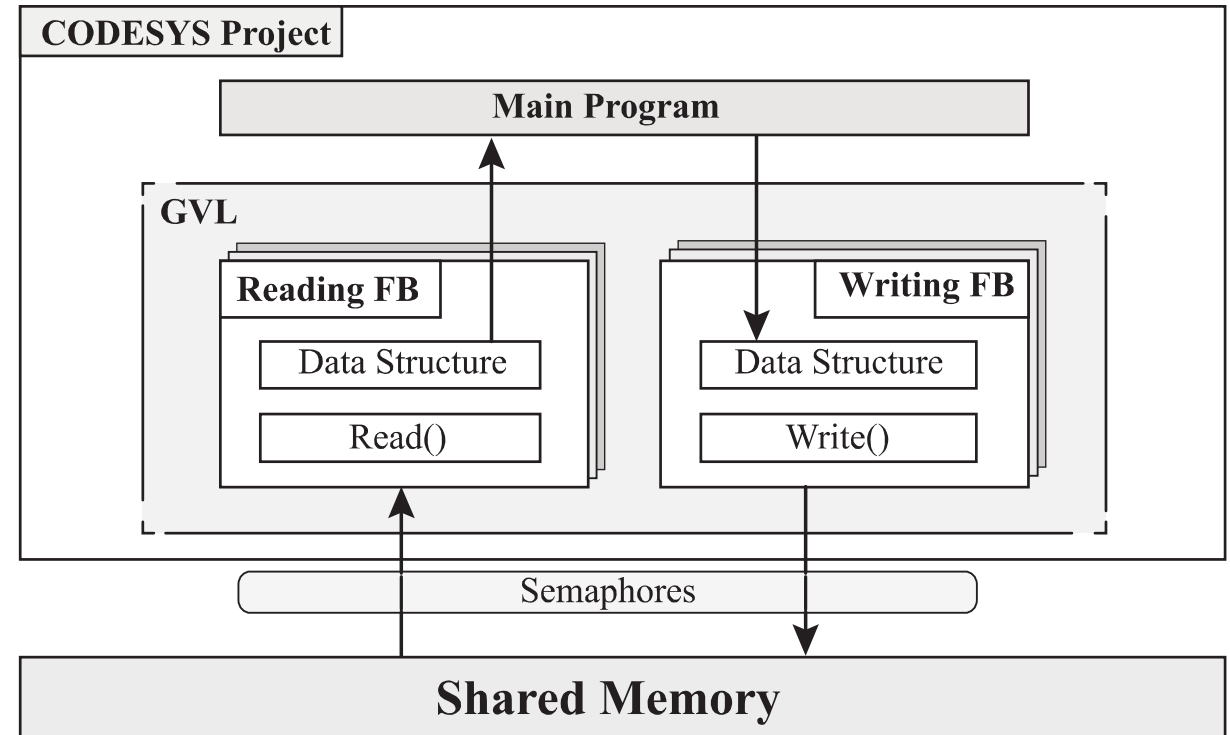
Usage on ROS – Reading from the Shared Memory

```
33 PoseStamped_SharedMemory poseStampedSMR("poseStampedRead_example", READ);  
34 Float64_SharedMemory float64SMR("float64Read_example", READ, NOPRINT);  
35 Int32_SharedMemory int32SMR("int32Read_example", READ, PRINT);
```

```
37 while (ros::ok())  
38 {  
39     poseStampedSMR.memoryRead();  
40     float64SMR.memoryRead();  
41     int32SMR.memoryRead();  
42  
43     ros::spinOnce();  
44     loop_rate.sleep();  
45 }
```

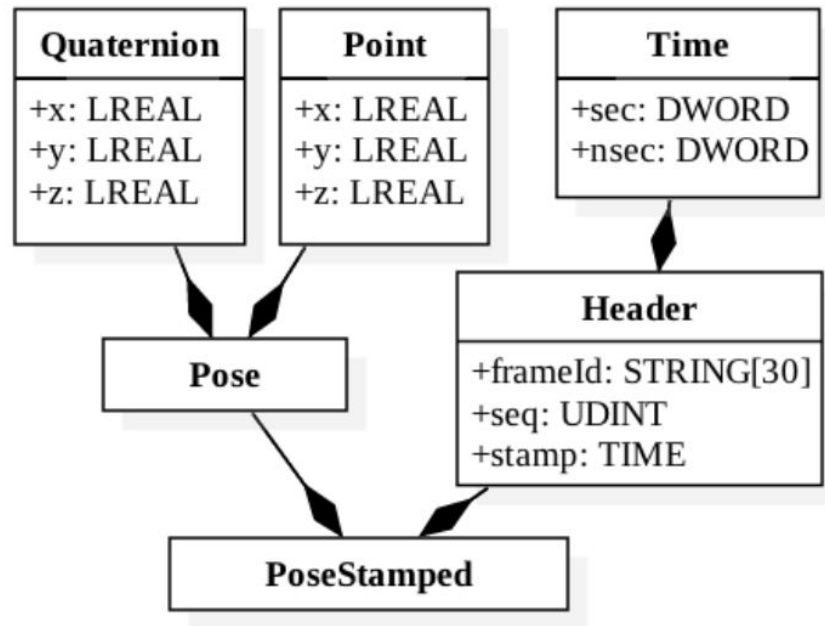
Implementation on CODESYS

- **All variables accessible by GVL.** GVL can be accessed by multiple programs.
- **Automatic update** of the variables.
- Function Blocks for reading and writing **can be used with graphical languages.**
- Shared Memory access synchronization by semaphores.

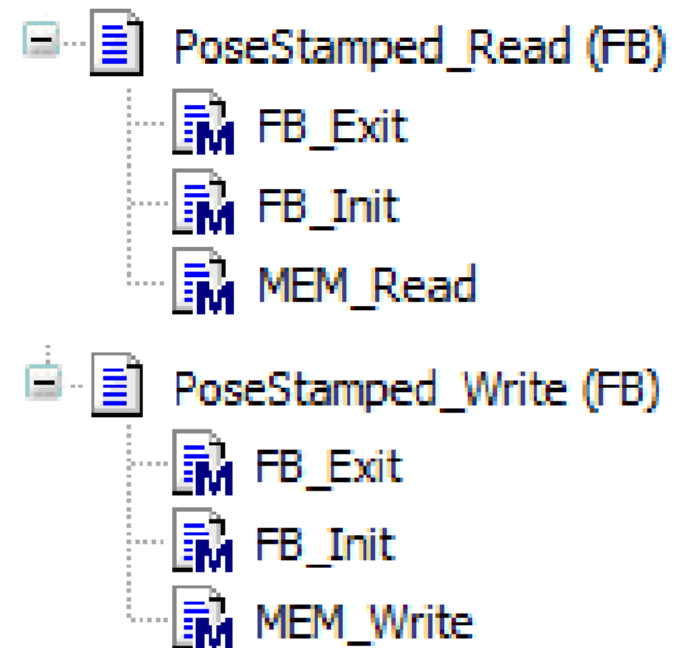


Implementation example on CODESYS

CODESYS Structures



Function Blocks



Usage on CODESYS

Device (CODESYS Control for BeagleboneBlack SL)

Plc Logic

Application

ROS

Library Manager

PLC_PRG (PRG)

ROS_Read (PRG)

ROS_Write (PRG)

Task Configuration

MainTask

PLC_PRG

ROS_Read

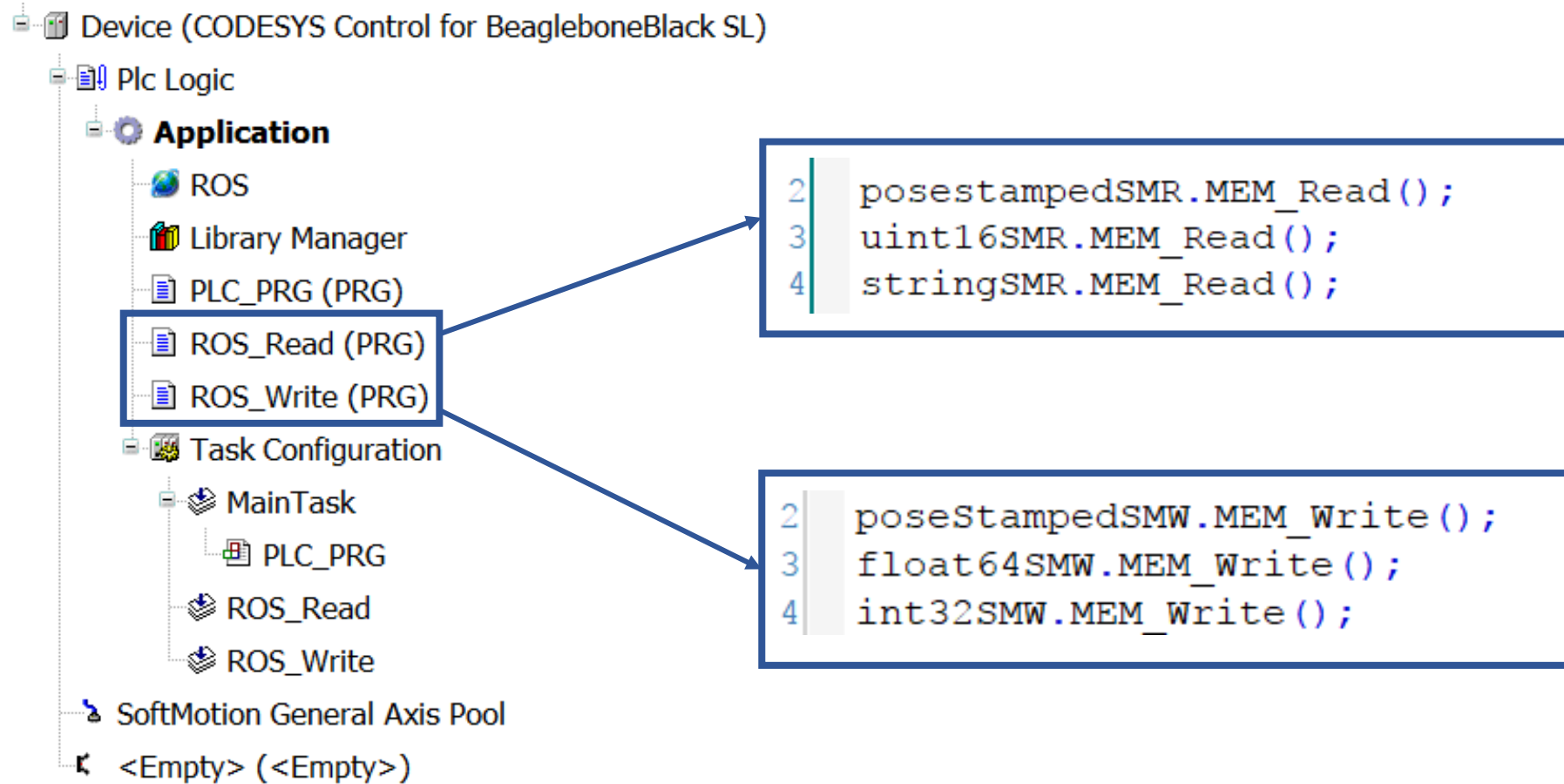
ROS_Write

SoftMotion General Axis Pool

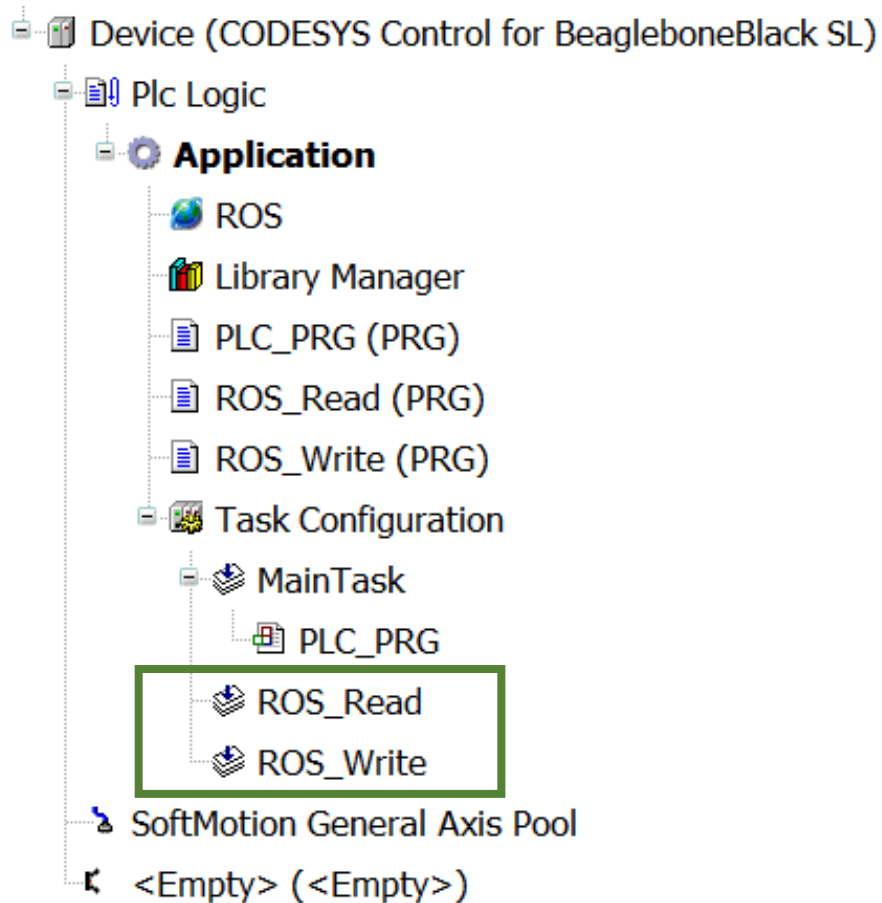
<Empty> (<Empty>)

```
3  VAR_GLOBAL
4      poseStampedSMR : PoseStamped_Read('poseStampedWrite_example');
5      uint16SMR : UInt16_Read('uint16Write_example');
6      stringSMR : String_Read('stringWrite_example');
7
8      poseStampedSMW : PoseStamped_Write('poseStampedRead_example');
9      float64SMW : Float64_Write('float64Read_example');
10     int32SMW : Int32_Write('int32Read_example');
11 END_VAR
```


Usage on CODESYS



Usage on CODESYS



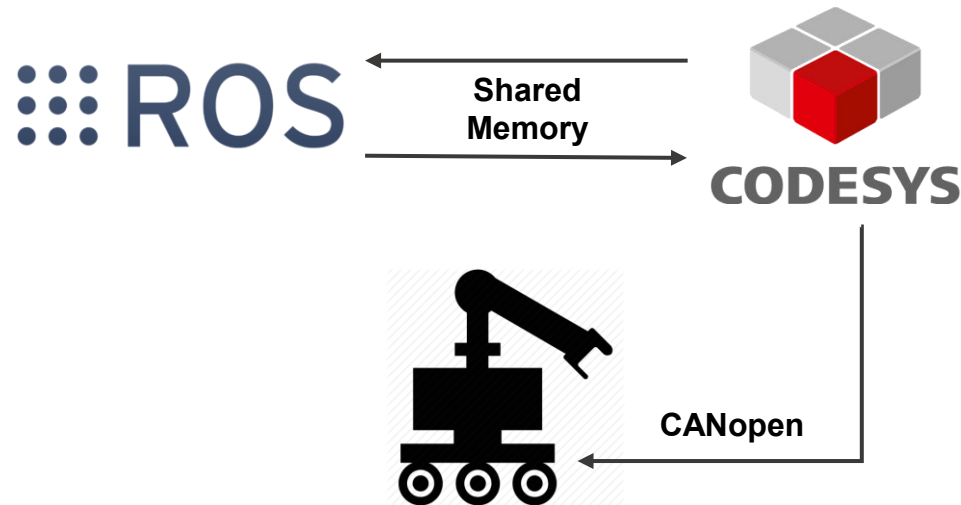
The Configuration dialog for the Application task shows the following settings:

- Priority (0..31): 1
- Type: Cyclic
- Interval (e.g. t#200ms): t#20ms
- Watchdog:
 - ☐ Enable
 - Time (e.g. t#200ms): [] ms
 - Sensitivity: 1

Practical Applications

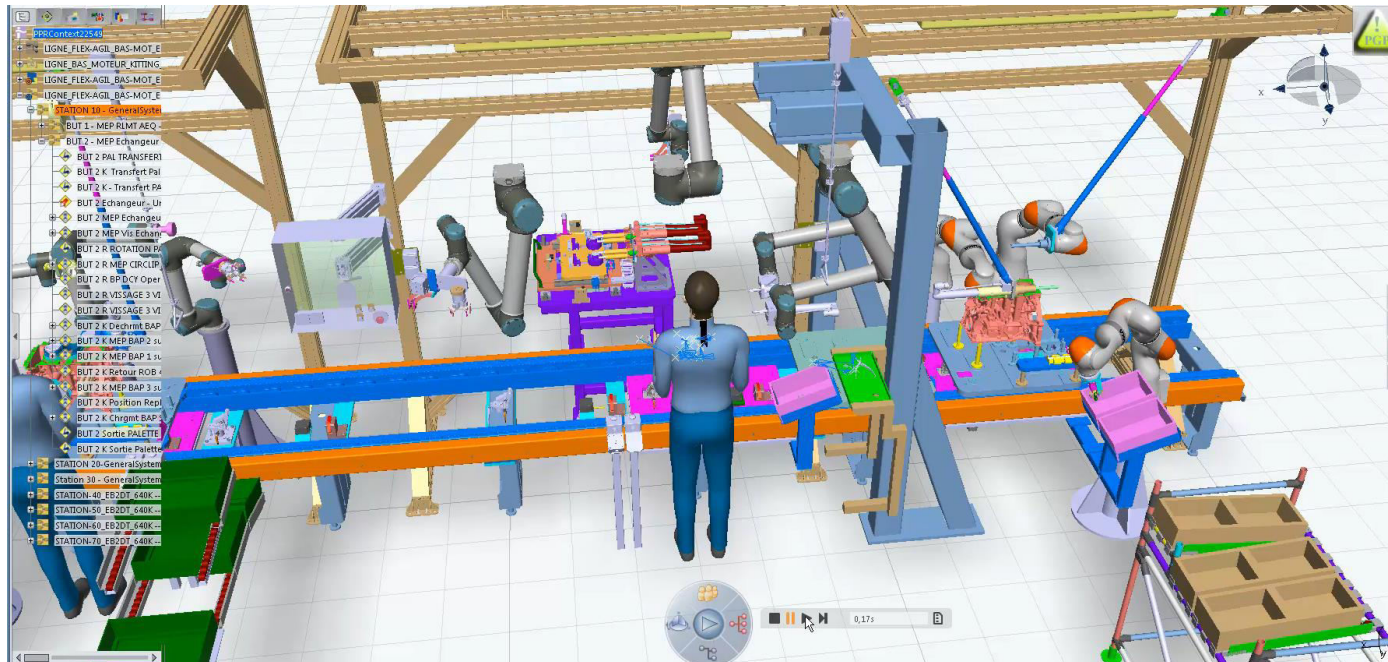
INESC Omnidirectional mobile manipulator

- Using CODESYS to manage the CANopen drivers:



Practical Applications

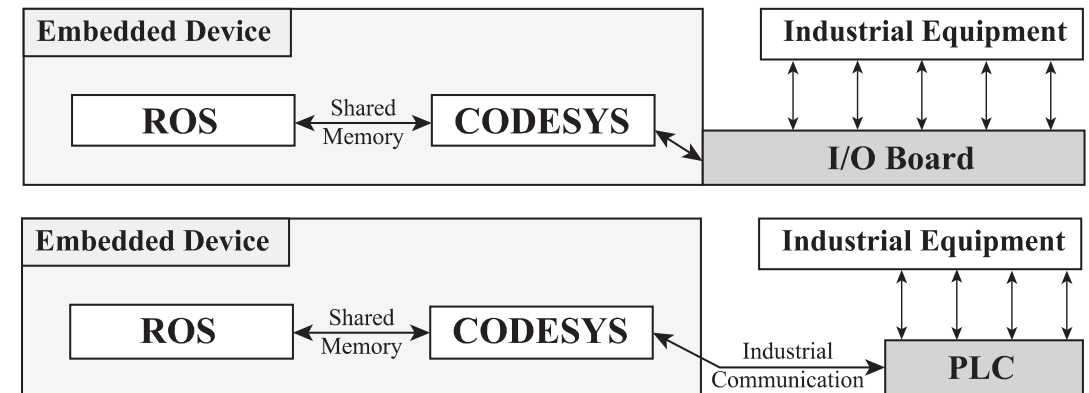
Scalable Project – PSA use case



Overview and Future Work

Overview

- A communication system between ROS and CODESYS was implemented using **shared memory**.
- Three potential practical applications:
 1. **Using CODESYS as Communication Bridge**
 2. **Horizontal Integration between ROS and CODESYS**
 3. **Programing robotic tasks in IEC 61131-3 programming languages**



Future Work

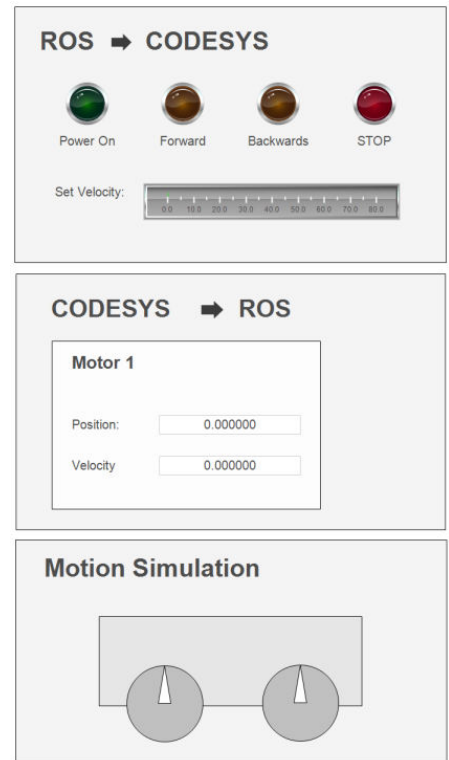
- **Simplify the introduction of ROS Custom Messages to be used by this bridge:**
 - A tool will be developed to handle custom messages.
 - On CODESYS, auto generation of code and easy code import will be investigatedImplement a solution to overcome the variable length arrays issue on CODESYS.
- Include **ROS Services and ROS Actions**.

Live Demo

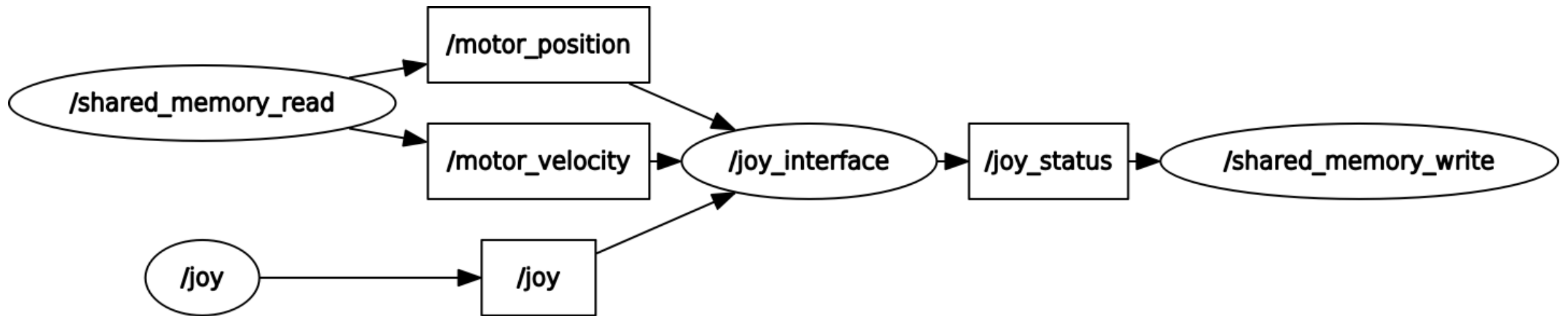
Beaglebone Black

CODESYS Web Visualization

Joystick



Demo development on ROS



Demo development on ROS

```
1 #include "ros/ros.h"
2 #include "codesys_shared_memory/class_headers/Std_Msgs_SharedMemory.h"
3
4 int main(int argc, char **argv){
5     ros::init(argc, argv, "shared_memory_read");
6     Float64_SharedMemory velocity("motor_velocity", READ);
7     Float64_SharedMemory position("motor_position", READ);
8
9     while (ros::ok()){
10         velocity.memoryRead();
11         position.memoryRead();
12         ros::spin();
13     }
14     return 0;
15 }
```

```
1 #include "ros/ros.h"
2 #include "codesys_shared_memory/class_headers/Custom_Msgs_SharedMemory.h"
3
4 int main(int argc, char **argv){
5     ros::init(argc, argv, "shared_memory_write");
6     JoyInterface_SharedMemory joy_interface_write("joy_interface", WRITE);
7
8     while (ros::ok()){
9         joy_interface_write.memoryWrite();
10         ros::spin();
11     }
12     return 0;
13 }
14
```


Demo development on CODESYS

```

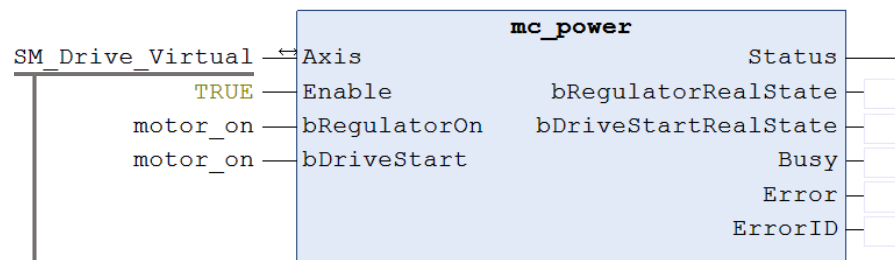
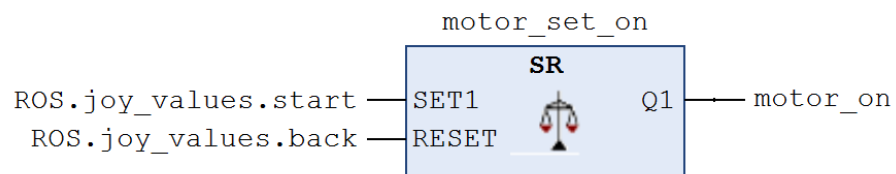
1 {attribute 'qualified_only'}
2 VAR_GLOBAL
3
4     joy_values: JoyInterface_Read('joy_status');
5
6     motorCurrentVelocity : Float64_Write('motor_velocity');
7     motorCurrentPosition : Float64_Write('motor_position');
8
9 END_VAR
    
```

GVL Definition

```

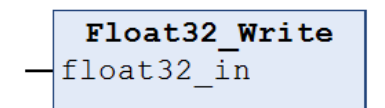
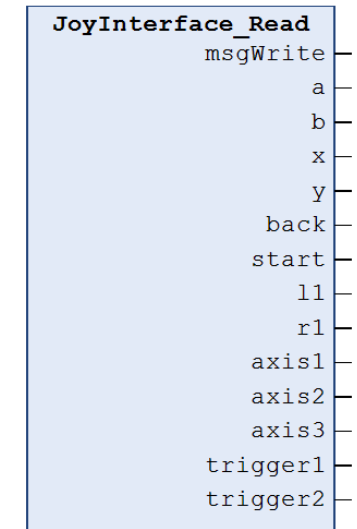
1 ROS.joy_values.MEM_Read();
2 ROS.motorCurrentVelocity.float64_in := SM_Drive_Virtual.fActVelocity;
3 ROS.motorCurrentPosition.float64_in := SM_Drive_Virtual.fSetPosition;
4 ROS.motorCurrentVelocity.MEM_Write();
5 ROS.motorCurrentPosition.MEM_Write();
    
```

Shared memory
operation program



Can be assigned to a real motor

Portion of Motor program FBD



Data can be read or written
directly on graphical languages

Demo

