

Simulating a container terminal using SimPy

Overview

Create a working demo of a basic container terminal simulation using SimPy.

- You only need to use the standard python library + SimPy.
- The goal of the exercise is to see that the applicant can translate described logic into code and to asses code quality. So make sure that the code is written using best practices as you know it. An object oriented approach is suggested.
- The SimPy doc page provides information about the API and examples that you can use to get started: <https://simpy.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>

Task

1. Simulate vessels arriving to the container terminal. The time between vessel arrivals follows an exponential distribution with an average of 5 hours (<https://docs.python.org/3/library/random.html#random.expovariate>). This is the input that drives the simulation.
 - Each vessel carries 150 containers that needs to be discharged (unloaded).
2. The vessels will need to berth at the terminal and there are only 2 available slots (berth_1 & berth_2). This means that if a vessel arrives and both berths are already occupied, the new vessel has to wait in a queue (FIFO).
 - When all containers have been discharged, the vessel leaves and the berth slot is free to be used by the next vessel.
3. Once the vessel berths, a quay crane (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Container_crane) will start lifting the containers from the vessel to a truck.
 - There are 2 quay cranes and any quay crane can operate on any berth
 - Both quay cranes cannot serve the same vessel
 - It takes the crane 3 minutes to move one container.
 - The crane must put the container on a truck. If no truck is available, the crane will have to wait until a truck is free before it can start its next move.
 - The crane can use any of the free trucks, it does not have to wait for the same truck to come back again. This means that if only one vessel is in berth, it will never be blocked by waiting for a truck. If two vessels are in beth, the cranes will sometimes be blocked while waiting for a free truck.
4. The terminal has 3 trucks, transporting containers from the quay cranes to the yard blocks (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terminal_tractor).
 - It takes the truck 6 minutes to drop off the container at the yard block and come back again
5. Create a simple log (print statements does the job) for each event, e.g. vessel arriving, vessel berthing, quay crane moves a container, etc. The log should include the current time using SimPy

Environment.now

(https://simpy.readthedocs.io/en/latest/api_reference/simpy.core.html#simpy.core.Environment.now).

6. Run the simulation for some time using `env.run(until=SIMULATION_TIME)` where `SIMULATION_TIME` is a parameter the user can set.
7. The simulation time in SimPy is unitless but in this exercise we can assume 1 tick = 1 minute

