

material handling modeling in anylogic®

Andrei Borshchev
Nikolay Churkov

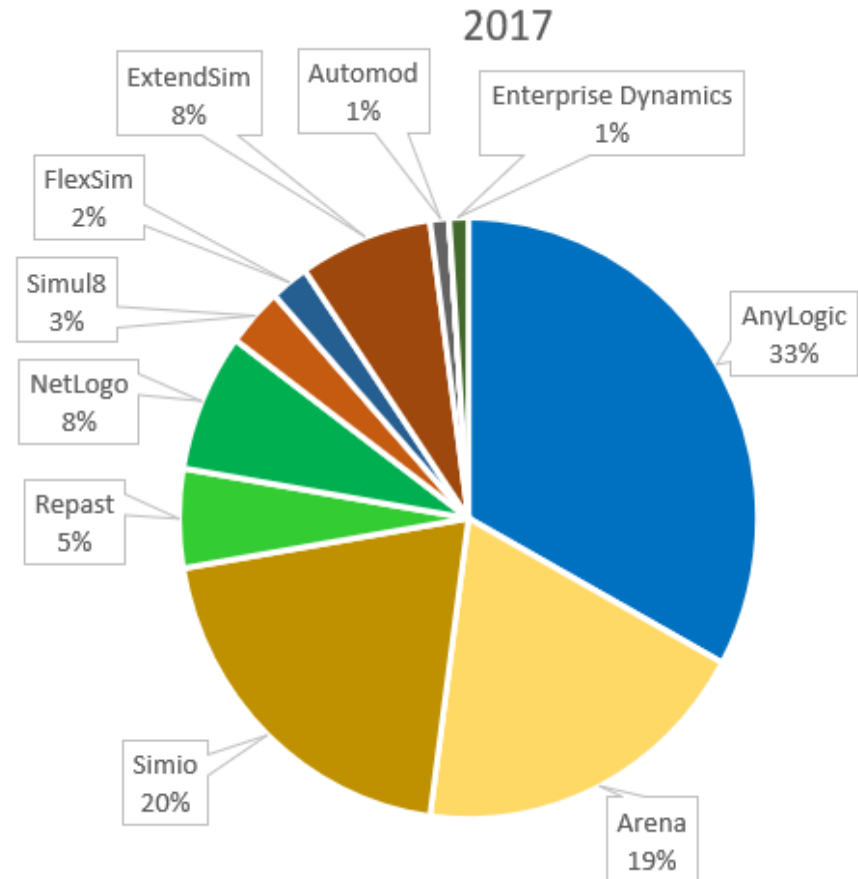
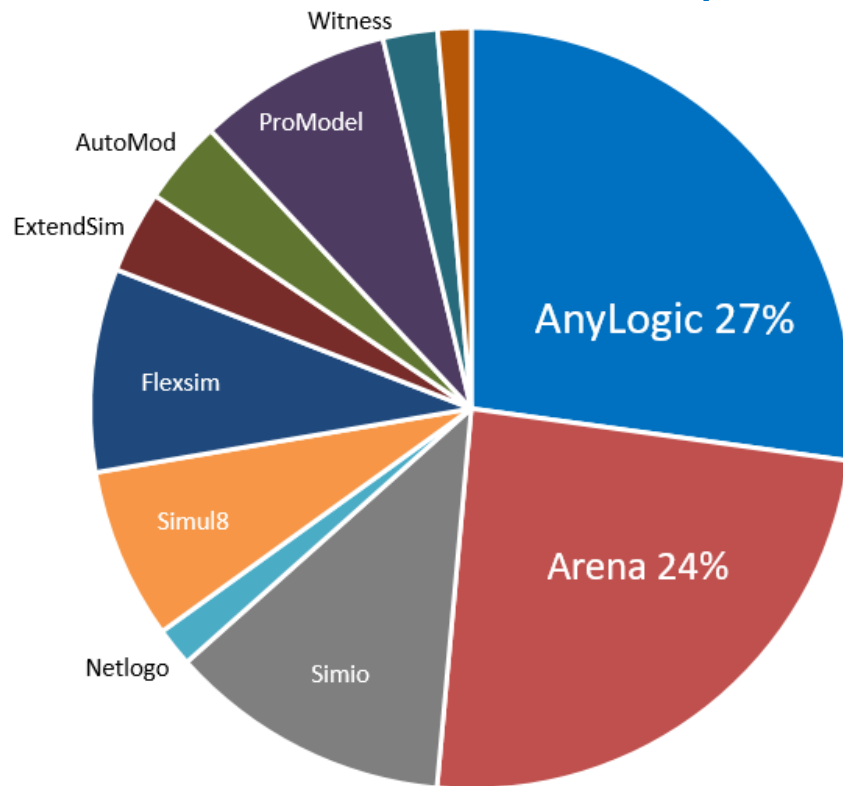
December 2017



© The AnyLogic Company | www.anylogic.com

AnyLogic is the most used simulation software

- see LinkedIn user group sizes and number of WSC case studies (2017)

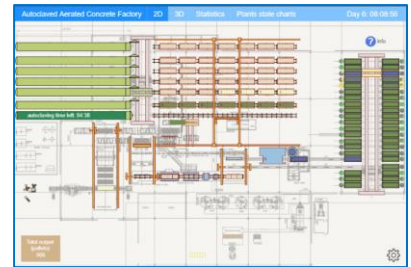
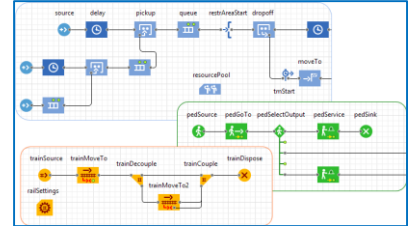


industry leaders choose AnyLogic for simulation

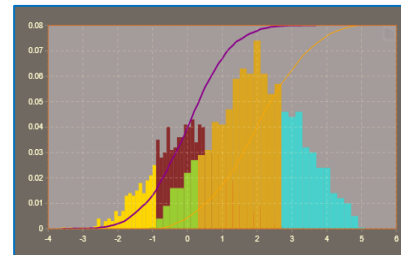
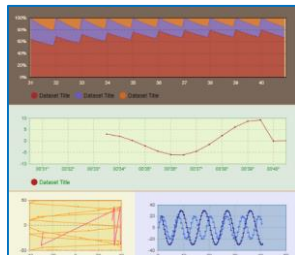


most of simulation tools can do this:

- Discrete event modeling with process flowcharts
- “Discrete rate” modeling
- Scripting in addition to drag and drop
- 2D and 3D animation
- Optimization
- Parameter variation and Monte Carlo experiments
- Built-in database
- Visualize, import and export data

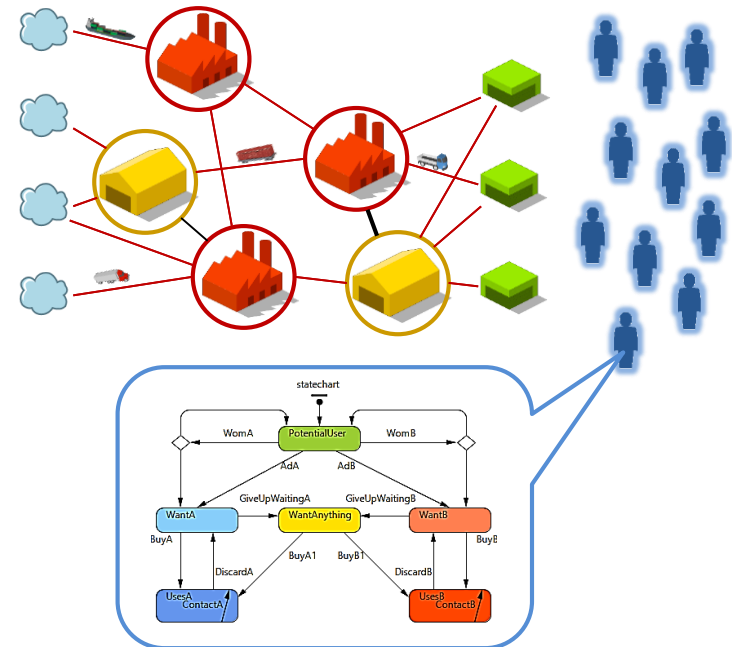


number_of_employees		
branch	employee_type	number
1 Wichita Falls	Back Office	19
2 Wichita Falls	Credit Specialist	20
3 Wichita Falls	Financial Services Sales	16
4 Wichita Falls	Business Development Manager	1
5 Wichita Falls	Head of Sales Group	2
6 San Antonio	DSA	1
7 San Antonio	Back Office	56
8 San Antonio	Deputy Regional Director	2
9 San Antonio	Credit Specialist	96
10 San Antonio	Financial Services Sales	20



No other simulation tool can do:

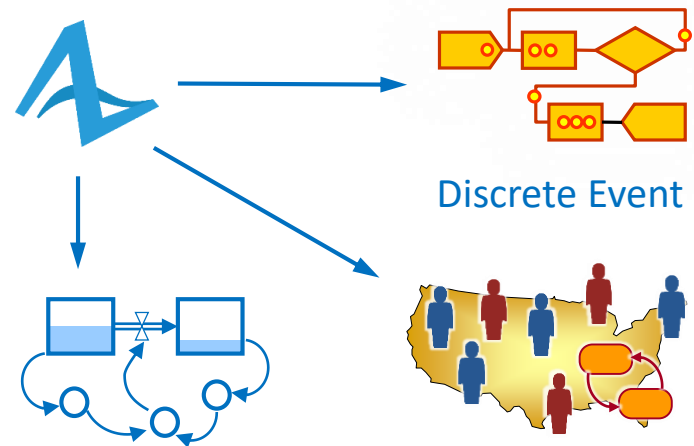
- Professional agent based modeling
- Apply simulation in the areas where it **had not been possible before**, like marketing, social and ecosystems
- Bring models from traditional areas, like supply chains and manufacturing, to a **new level of flexibility and accuracy**



No other simulation tool can do:

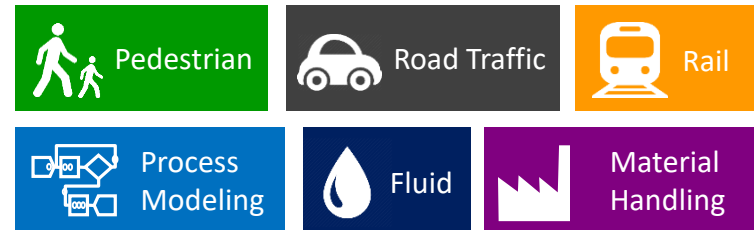
- Professional agent based modeling
- Multi-method modeling

- Develop models using **all three existing simulation methods** in any combination to simulate systems of any complexity
- AnyLogic was **the first** tool to introduce multimethod simulation modeling, and still remains **the only** software that has that capability.



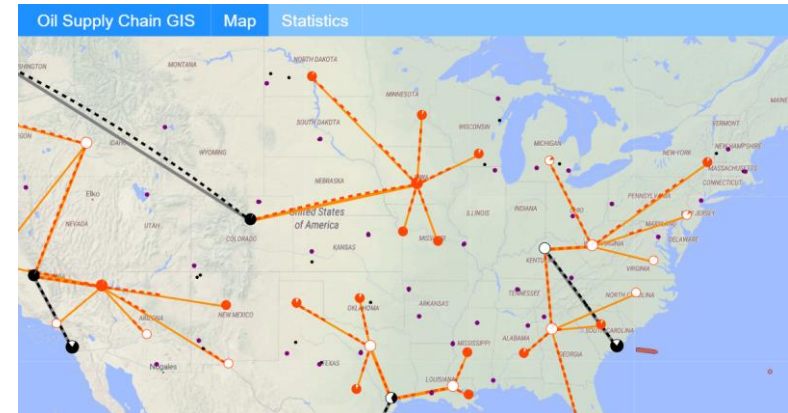
No other simulation tool can do:

- Professional agent based modeling
 - Multi-method modeling
 - Industry-specific libraries
- A unique suite of industry-specific tools in one package, at no additional cost
 - **Process Modeling** and **Fluid**: generic libraries for logical processes with discrete items and bulk/liquid transfer
 - **Pedestrian**, **Rail**, and **Road Traffic**: detailed physical-level simulation of objects' movement and interaction
 - **Material Handling**: conveyor networks, stations, AGVs, cranes, robots



No other simulation tool can do:

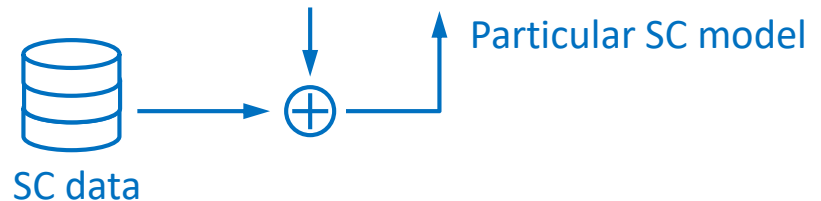
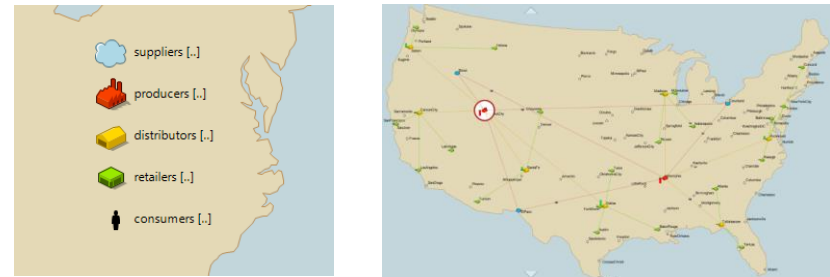
- Professional agent based modeling
 - Multi-method modeling
 - Industry-specific libraries
 - GIS maps integration
- Use geographic locations
 - Search for **places**, **regions**, and **routes** – both at **design time** and **at runtime**
 - Move objects along the real routes
 - Use tiles and **shape files**
 - Choose tile and route providers



No other simulation tool can do:

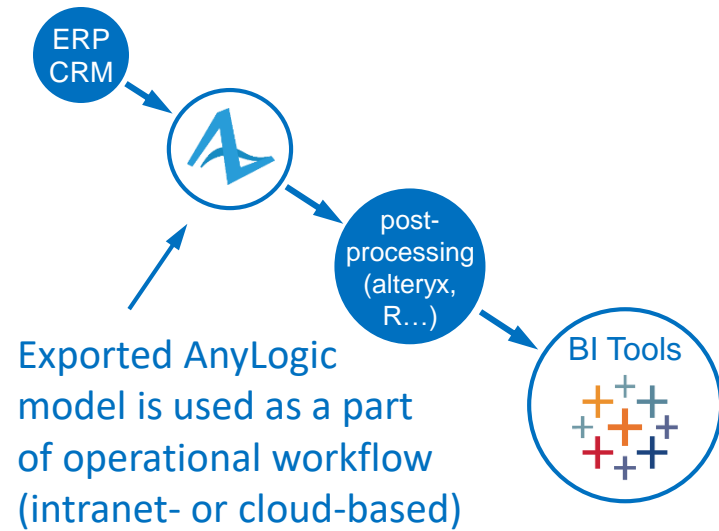
- Professional agent based modeling
 - Multi-method modeling
 - Industry-specific libraries
 - GIS maps integration
 - Extension and customization
- Create reusable **custom objects** and **object libraries** for your application areas and share them with colleagues
 - Create flexible models that **fully configure themselves** from external data source when they are run
 - Build custom experiment workflows and extend models with Java

Generic supply chain model



No other simulation tool can do:

- Professional agent based modeling
 - Multi-method modeling
 - Industry-specific libraries
 - GIS maps integration
 - Extension and customization
 - Model export and integration
- Export models as standalone Java applications to deliver them to clients
 - Make models **a part of your existing dataflow** and integrate them in your operational software like ERP, CRM, MRP, or BI systems for robust planning and risk reduction



No other simulation tool can do:

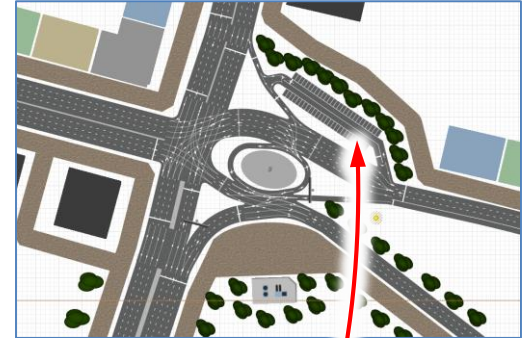
- Professional agent based modeling
 - Multi-method modeling
 - Industry-specific libraries
 - GIS maps integration
 - Extension and customization
 - Model export and integration
 - Simulation in the Cloud
- Use any device to run your model, including **phones and tablets**
 - Provide online simulation analytics to your clients with **web dashboards**
 - Leverage **high-performance** cloud computing for complex experiments
 - **Deliver** models privately to your clients using secure web repository
 - **Share** simulations publicly with the community and **collaborate** in the cloud
 - **TRY IT RIGHT NOW: cloud.anylogic.com**
FREE & NO LOGIN NEEDED!



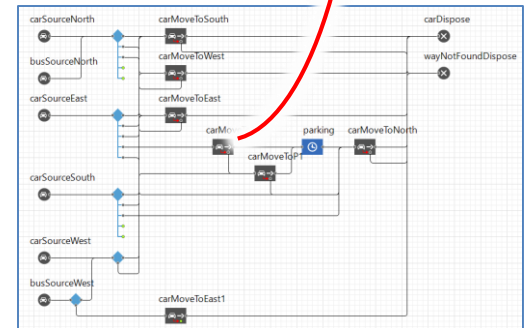
material handling

separation of logic and spatial structure in AnyLogic

- One of the fundamental principles of process modeling in AnyLogic is separation of layout (physical structure) and process logic
 - “Blocks” in the process flowchart may refer to the components of the spatial structure, which are called “markup elements”
 - In some models, e.g. Business Process, there may be very complex process flow (logic) and simple or even none layout
 - In other models (e.g. Pedestrian or Road Traffic) space markup can be very detailed and complex and actually drives the model whereas the logic can be very simplistic (“walk / drive from A to B”)
 - Material Handling is definitely of the 2nd type

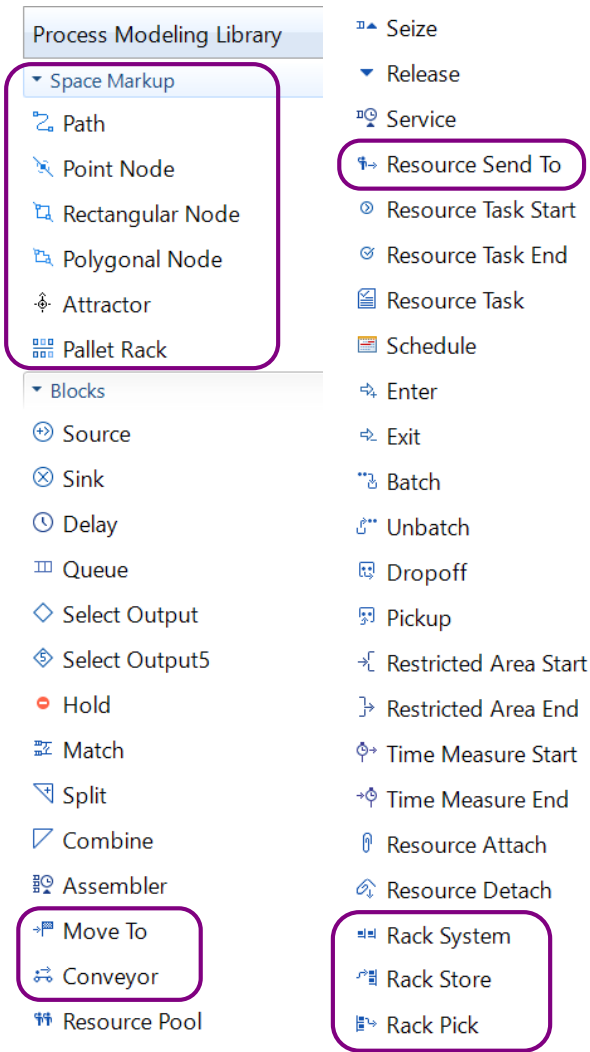


Intersection layout



Traffic flow logic

material handling functionality of AnyLogic (basic)



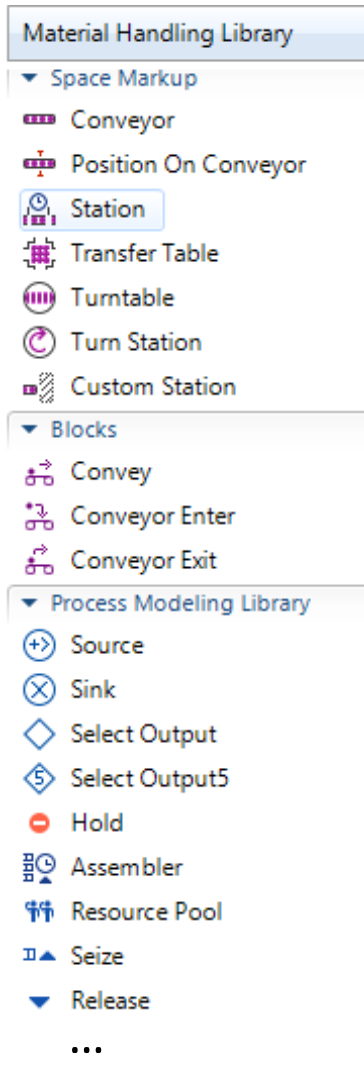
- Generic Process Modeling Library and generic space markup offers basic functionality:
 - All blocks needed for modeling process logic, including resource management
 - Simple spatial network (paths and nodes) and ability to send an agent to a particular location
 - Simple storage (pallet rack, rack system) and store/pick operations
 - Simplistic single conveyor
 - Ability to send resource units over the network, attach and detach them

material handling functionality of AnyLogic (advanced)

- AnyLogic Material Handling Library ([release date April 2018](#)) radically extends MH modeling functionality
- Interoperates with all other libraries (as always)
- Includes conveyor & station network with auto-routing:
 - ConveyorPath, PositionOnConveyor, PhotoEye
 - Turnplate, TransferTable, Turntable
 - Station, PickupStation, DropoffStation, CustomStation
- ASRS and modern storage systems
- Robots, cranes, transfer cars
- AGVs with collision avoidance and routing logic



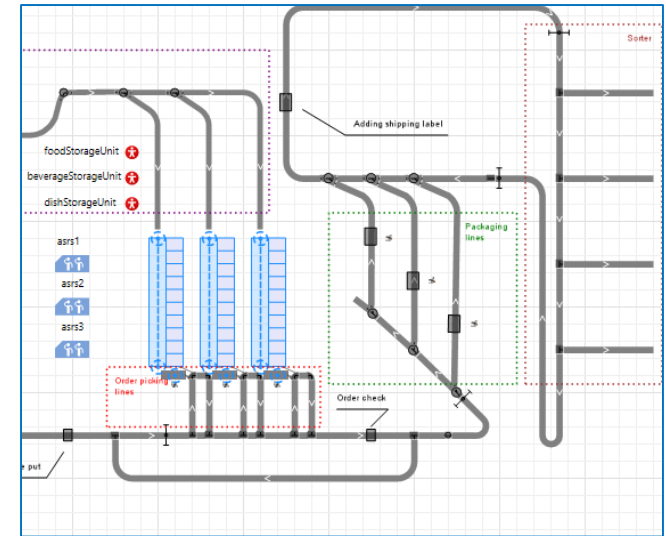
elements of the Material Handling Library (draft)



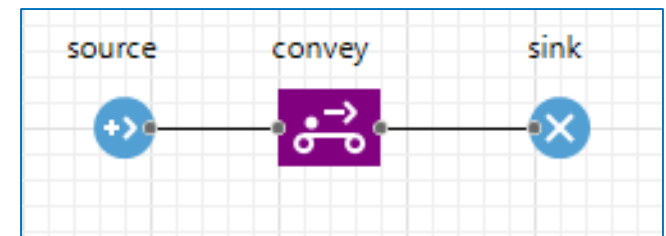
- New markup elements
 - Conveyor Path
 - Elements connecting paths: Transfer Table, Turn Table, Turn Station
 - Stations: Station, Custom Station
 - Auxiliary: Position On Conveyor, Photo Eye
- Few flowchart blocks
 - Actually, just one: Convey
 - Auxiliary: Conveyor Enter/Exit
- A selection of Process Modeling Library (logic) blocks duplicated here for fast access
 - Source/Sink
 - Select Output
 - etc.

how it works

- Markup elements are connected to each other and form **Conveyor Network**
- Convey block moves material items from through the conveyor network providing automatic routing
- Actions over items (including delays, drop-off, pickup, resource utilization, etc.) are defined at **stations**, which are a part of markup
- If logic is more complex, use **Custom Station** and arbitrary blocks from the Process Modeling Library



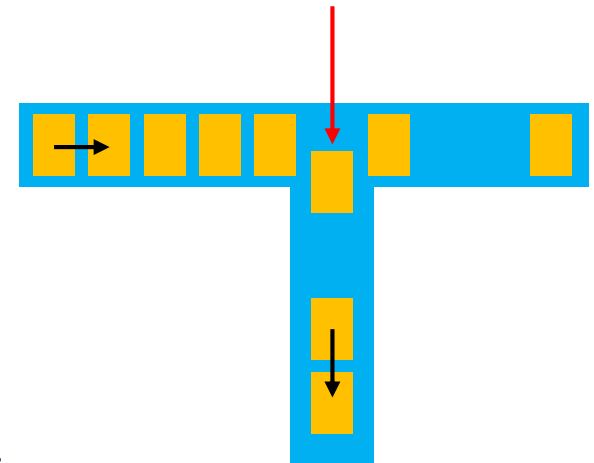
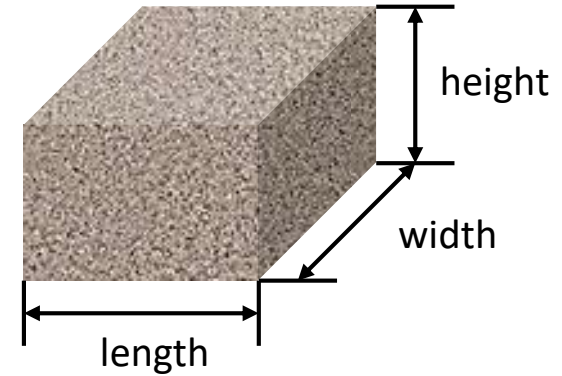
Conveyor network



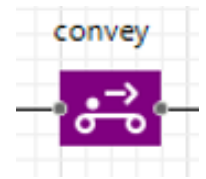
Process logic (in the extreme case)

material item (in AnyLogic they are called agents)

- Three dimensions
 - Determined as the agent enters the conveyor
 - Can change e.g. after passing a transfer table
 - Can be set manually in a property of the flowchart block or by function call (when agent is not on conveyor)
- Orientation on conveyor
 - The current conveyor network element, if any
 - Position of the agent on conveyor
 - Agents before and after
 - And also, given the conveyor, one can find out which agents are on it



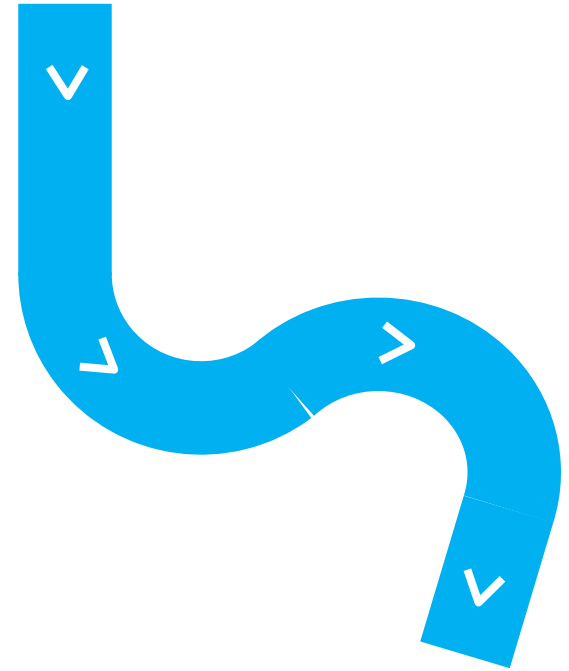
Convey [flowchart block]



- Manages travelling of material items through a Conveyor Network, including stations, if any
 - Once an agent enters Convey, it starts its journey through the network
 - Convey blocks can follow each other in flowchart
- Routing types:
 - Auto routing: Convey uses the shortest way to the end point avoiding forbidden paths that can be specified
 - Custom routing: the user can specify a list of elements to form a route
- Properties:
 - Source location (Position On Conveyor, Path+offset, current)
 - Target location (Position On Conveyor, Path+offset, Custom Station)
 - Option of changing orientation on conveyor
 - Option of keeping agent on conveyor after reaching destination

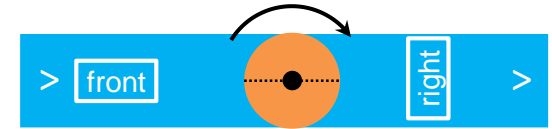
Conveyor Path [markup element]

- Represents a single continuous conveyor
 - Geometrically, this is a multi-segment path with straight and arc segments
- Properties:
 - Type (belt, roller, fixed cell)
 - Path form and Width (defined graphically)
 - Speed
 - Gap size
 - Acceleration/Deceleration
 - Reverse movement - ?
- Accumulation capability is defined by conveyor path type
- Conveyor Paths can be connected:
 - To special elements connecting conveyors: Transfer Tables, Turntables, Turnplates
 - To other paths directly or via Split / Merge elements



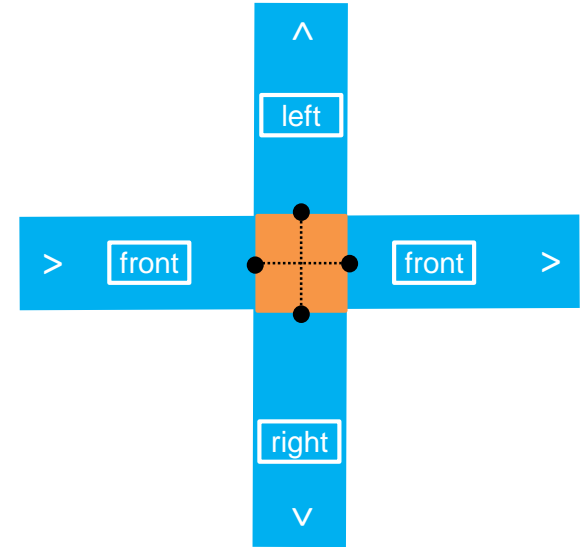
Turn Station [markup element]

- Connects two conveyor paths (or breaks one) along a straight line
- Passing a Turn Station involves time delay and may change orientation of the agent
- Use cases:
 - Setting the same orientation for all agents (e.g., before scanning)
 - Rotate all passing agents by a specific angle (to model wrapping or reeling processes)
- Parameters:
 - New agent orientation
 - Rotation angle
 - Rotation speed
 - Speed of passing through



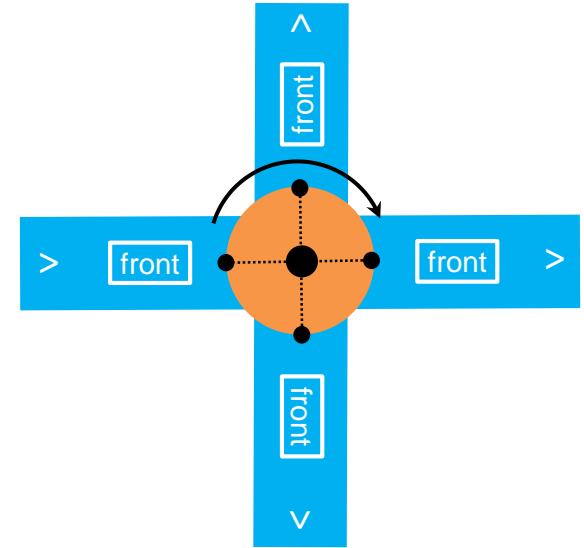
Transfer Table [markup element]

- Connects from 2 to 4 Conveyor Paths and routes agents
- Has at least one input and one output path
- Looks like a rectangle; Conveyor Paths can be connected to the center of any of the four sides
- Orientation of the agent changes according to the transfer logic
- Properties:
 - Switching delay time
 - Speed of passing through



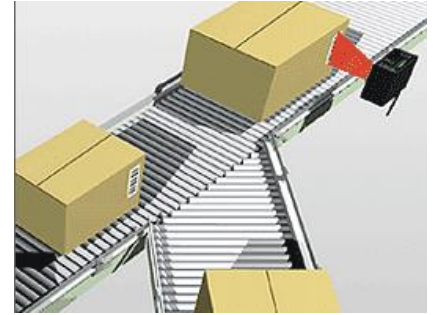
Turntable [markup element]

- Connects N Conveyor Paths and routes agents
- Has at least one input and one output path
- Looks like a circle; Conveyor Paths are connected at arbitrary angles
- Passing a turntable does not change agent orientation
- Properties:
 - Rotation speed
 - Speed of passing through



Position On Conveyor [markup element]

- Represents a certain point on conveyor
 - Unlike Photo-eye that watches an area
 - There can be multiple Position On Conveyor elements on a single path
- Use cases:
 - A photo-eye
 - Target location of agent's route through conveyor
 - Position where an agent is placed / picked from the conveyor
- Conveyed agent can be stopped (and conveyor possibly blocked) at a position



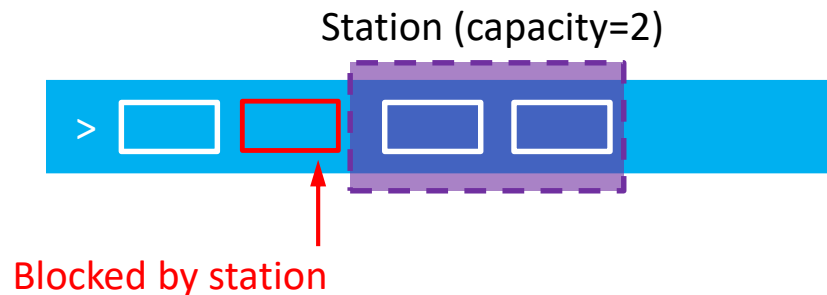
Area On Conveyor [markup element]

- Represents a certain area on conveyor that is being watched by e.g. a photo-eye, unlike Position On Conveyor that refers to a point
- Use cases:
 - A photo-eye watching a certain area
 - Estimation of conveyor line occupation
 - Getting the list of agents in the certain area
- Single or multiple photo-eyes can be placed at arbitrary positions of conveyor paths



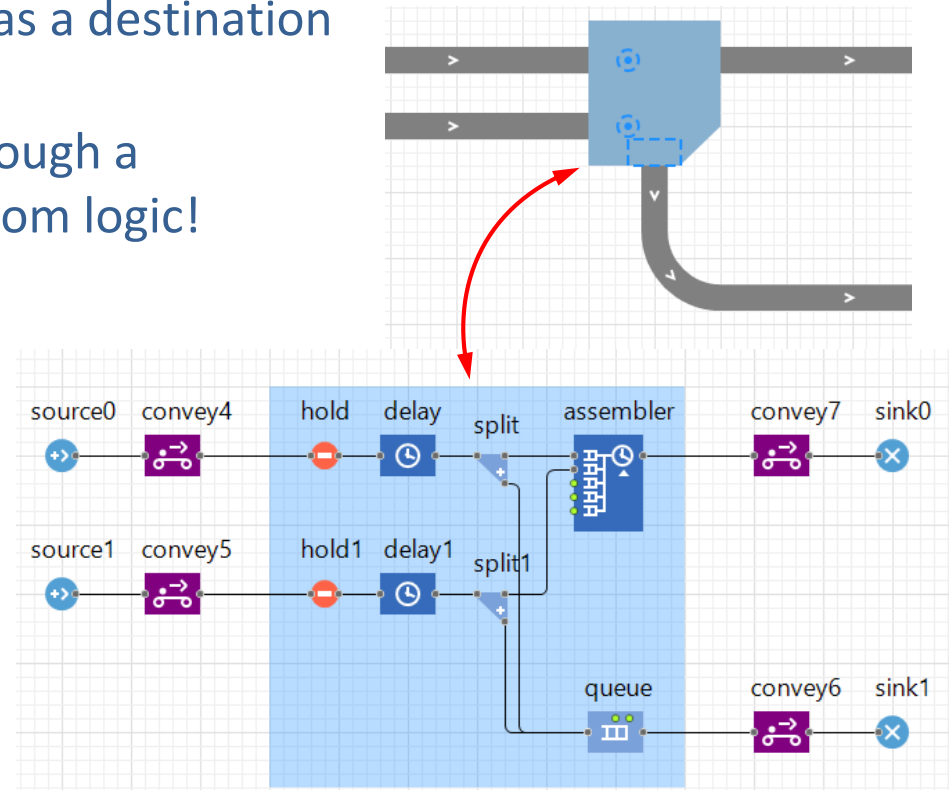
Station [markup element]

- Models a simple processing device or an operation/process
- While the agent travels through the Conveyor Network (being in a Convey block), it is processed by Stations it meets on the way
 - No need to add flowchart blocks to model simple operations
- Properties:
 - Delay time
 - Capacity
 - Optionally, resources needed to perform the operation
- Specific callbacks:
 - On process started
 - On process finished



Custom Station [markup element]

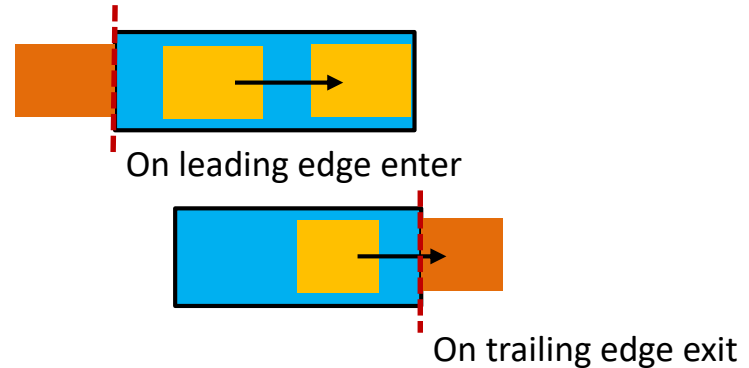
- Models an operation/process with custom logic that cannot be described with capacity/delay/use resources parameters
- Looks like a polygon with conveyor paths connected to it
 - Custom Station can be set as a destination point of Convey block
 - Routes can not be built through a Custom Station due to custom logic!
- Operations are specified by a process flowchart
 - E.g. assembling process that combines agents of different types from several conveyors



general features of conveyor network markup

- Each element has callbacks:

- On leading edge enter
- On leading edge exit
- On trailing edge exit
- On trailing edge enter



- The user can define custom dynamic routing logic:

- Dynamic priorities at a merge of conveyor paths
- Dynamic routing depending on e.g. path occupancy/congestions

- Each element has

- Statistics
- Failure/maintenance profiles (MTTF, MTTR, MTBPM, MTTPM)

- You can create a conveyor network dynamically by reading the layout e.g. from a database or a spreadsheet

Conveyor Enter and Conveyor Exit [flowchart blocks]

conveyorEnter



- Places an agent in the Conveyor Network, but doesn't let it move
 - May block other agents
 - [Normally, you just use Convey block to place agents in]
- Use case:
 - A worker has placed a box on the conveyor belt, but needs to e.g. label it before it goes

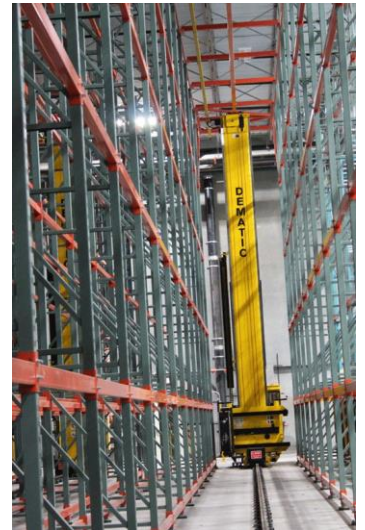
conveyorExit



- Removes the agent that has finished its movement from the Conveyor Network
 - [Normally, you remove it by checking "Remove" in the Convey block]
- Use case:
 - The agent has reached its final destination in the network, but waits for e.g. some resource, and still blocks other agents

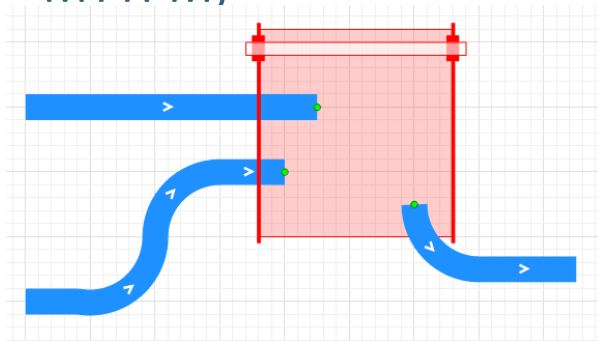
ASRS

- ASRS can be connected to Conveyor networks
- Standard 3D shapes, animation of storing and retrieving from a rack
- Equipment statistics

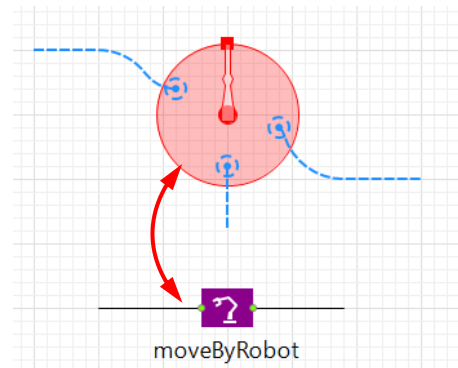


robots, cranes, transfer cars

- Implemented as markup elements that can be:
 - A part of a Conveyor Network, or
 - Standalone, referenced by MoveBy... blocks
- Collision detection and auto management of bridge cranes and transfer cars sharing rails
- Each element has
 - Statistics
 - Failure/maintenance profiles (MTTF, MTTR, MTBPM, MTTPM)



Conveyors are connected to a bridge crane



Flowchart block refers to the Robot markup

Automated Guided Vehicles (AGVs)

- AGV movement is a combination of free space, lane-guided or grid-guided (KIVA) movement featuring:
 - Collision avoidance (sensing other AGVs, workers)
 - Deadlock detection and resolution (e.g. when sharing same aisle)
 - Auto routing around obstacles (walls, pillars, racks)
- AnyLogic already includes relevant technology in Pedestrian and Road Traffic libraries
- Optionally, tug trains

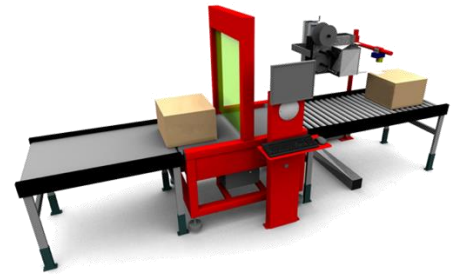
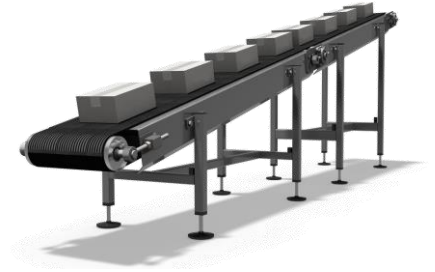


AGVs additional features

- Routing
 - Shortest path with minimum number of turns
 - Minimum turn radius considered
 - Zones with limited capacity
 - Optionally, priorities of AGV's tasks
- Movement
 - Acceleration/deceleration depending on turn radius
 - Speed reduction in case other objects detected in proximity
- AGV fleet management
 - Auto (depending on current task list)
 - Custom (user-controlled)
- Statistics:
 - Utilization, delivery time distribution, heat map

3D Animation

- Conveyor markup animation :
 - Multiple conveyor types
 - Supports
 - Any form of conveyor is supported
 - Turnplate, turntable, transfer table animation
- Photo-eyes, scanners, typical stations
- Workers
- Storage systems
- Robots, cranes
- Forklifts, trolleys, AGVs



thank you!

- Come to AnyLogic Conference 2018!

AnyLogic Conference 2018



April 18-19



Baltimore, MD, USA