A Basic Introduction to Python
August 9, 2018

A discrete-event simulation can be realized both in Matlab and Python. Unlike Matlab which is specifically designed for scientific computation, Python is a general purpose programming language. However, Python still has a lot of advantages. To learn how to program in Python and construct a simulation program, we list a few useful resources.

1. Basic Python: https://www.python.org/about/gettingstarted/
   Python 2.7 will no longer be updated and Python 3.x will continue its development.

2. Anaconda: https://anaconda.org/
   Instead of the raw version Python, we recommend using Anaconda. It encompasses all the aspects for using Python as a scientific programming language, from package management to Python version control.

3. Spyder: https://pythonhosted.org/spyder/
   It can be installed and updated through the interface in Anaconda. It offers a Matlab-like interface.

4. A few important packages
   (a) Numpy: https://docs.scipy.org/doc/numpy/user/quickstart.html
       It includes Matlab-like scientific calculation functions.
   (b) Matplotlib: https://matplotlib.org/tutorials/index.html
       It includes Matlab-like plotting functions.
   (c) Scipy: https://www.scipy.org/
       It includes numpy and other scientific computation packages, such as random number generators.

5. Lynda:
   https://www.lynda.com/
   https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/services/digital-media-production/lynda
   If you are a registered NCSU student, you should have access to Lynda through university library. It offers amazing classes for students with different levels of coding proficiency.