Subject: Re: railML 2.3 infrastructure extension proposal line sections
Posted by christian.rahmig on Mon, 02 Jan 2017 16:29:00 GMT
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Dear Torben,

Am 20.12.2016 um 18:26 schrieb Torben Brand:
> [...]
> trackGroups
> In Norway we segment a line into line sections. They consist
> of either stations (defined from home to home signal) or
> paths (sections between stations; DE:freie Strecke).
> There is a need to define which line section a track belongs
> to. The idea is to define a line section as a group of
> tracks.
> Thus I have added the new element <NO:lineSection> under
> <trackGroups>.
> <NO:LineSection> has the attributes: @trackRef and @type.
> @Type [datatype: enumeration] is preset to "station" or
> "path", but allows other values, too ("other:").

A line section (or section of line) is a structural unit that is used in other data models, e.g. RINF (see [1]), too. It can be seen as a component of a railway line and therefore represents some "meso level of detail" in the model of the railway network. If there is a need by several railML use cases (see [2]), I appreciate to integrate the line section into the railML data model, latest for version 3.

Your proposed structure

```
<trackGroups>
  <NO:lineSection>
  </NO:lineSection>
</trackGroups>
```

looks fine and reasonable. If the community agrees with me, I will hurry to open a Trac ticket for implementation with railML v3.

The attribute @type (enumeration with "station" and "path") makes sense as well in those countries that distinguish between station tracks and path tracks (de: "freie Strecke"). However, it should not be forgotten, that some countries like the United States of America do not know this differentiation. Therefore, the attribute @type must remain optional and allow for other values, too.

The reference to the contained tracks should not be done by an attribute, but by a sequence of child elements, similar to the current implementation of track references within the <line> element (see [3]).

This will allow to reference an arbitrary number of tracks. An example may look like this:

```
<trackGroups>
  <NO:lineSection type="path">
    <trackRef ref="tr01" />
    <trackRef ref="tr02" />
  </NO:lineSection>
</trackGroups>
```

Are there any further ideas or remarks regarding the usage of the line section entity? Any comments appreciated...

[1] http://www.era.europa.eu/Core-Activities/Interoperability/Pa ges/RINF.aspx
[2] http://wiki.railml.org/index.php?title=Dev:Use_cases
[3] https://www.railml.org/files/download/schemas/2016/railML-2.3/documentation/railML.html#Link2D3

Best regards
Christian

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