Subject: Switch: usage of attribute @course
Posted by christian.rahmig on Wed, 05 Apr 2017 10:51:33 GMT
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Dear all,

a standard question for railML newcomers is about the connection of
tracks via switches and crossings in order to form a railway network.
Some years ago, we created a Wiki page [1] for this topic. It became one
of the most called railML wiki pages. However, some questions remained
and I would like to bring the discussion here to the forum in order to
find a final solution for upcoming version 2.4.

The situation:
A switch is situated in the beginning or the end of a track and may be
connected to other tracks. See the following example:

```
<track id="tr01">
  <trackTopology>
    <trackBegin id="tr01_tb" pos="0">
      <connection id="tr01_c01" ref="tr02_c01"/>
    </trackBegin>
    ...
    <switch id="sw01" pos="0" type="ordinarySwitch">
      <connection id="sw01_c01" ref="tr03_c01" orientation="incoming"
course="left"/>
    </switch>
  </trackTopology>
</track>
```

The switch begin is located in the beginning of track "tr01". The main
course of the switch is defined by the <connection> in line 4. The
branching course of the switch is defined by the <connection> in line 8.

The problem:
The attribute @course may have the values "left", "right" and
"straight". However, the choice of this value currently depends on the
orientation of the track where the switch is located. The wiki page [1]
shows this in four small figures (examples 1-4). Consequently, the same
type of switch (with respect to its construction layout) may define its
branch one time with course="left" and the other time with
course="right" depending on the different orientation of the track where
the switch is located.

The question:
I want to ask you if you understand the current implementation /
understanding of railML track connection modelling or whether you
support to change it in the future? Shall the choice of value for

@course depend on the orientation of the track or shall it be independent and just linked with the construction layout of the switch?

I am looking forward to receiving your comments. The main aspects of the discussion and the final solution will be tracked with railML Trac ticket #39 [2].

[1] http://wiki.railml.org/index.php?title=Connection_between_tr acks
[2] http://trac.railml.org/ticket/39

Best regards
Christian

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