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Subject: Re: Switch: usage of attribute @course  
Posted by [christian.rahmig](#) on Tue, 13 Feb 2018 10:46:35 GMT  
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Dear all,

please let me remind you on the following forum post about the use of <switch> attributes @course and @orientation. Please also consider the forum post by Claus Feyling on this matter (see [3]).

If there is no feedback from your side, we anticipate that for upcoming railML 2.4 you are happy with the current solution described in [4]. In any case, railML 3.x is going to implement a modified approach.

[3] <https://www.railml.org/forum/index.php?t=msg&th=516&start=0&>

[4] [http://wiki.railml.org/index.php?title=Dev:Connection\\_between\\_n\\_tracks](http://wiki.railml.org/index.php?title=Dev:Connection_between_n_tracks)

Best regards  
Christian

Am 05.04.2017 um 12:51 schrieb Christian Rahmig:

> 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\\_tracks](http://wiki.railml.org/index.php?title=Connection_between_tracks)  
> [2] <http://trac.railml.org/ticket/39>  
>  
> Best regards  
> Christian  
>

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