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Subject: Re: [railML3] Mandatory <length> element for <track>s  
Posted by [christian.rahmig](#) on Mon, 26 Aug 2019 10:49:47 GMT  
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Dear Christian,

Am 18.07.2019 um 16:15 schrieb Christian Rößiger:

> [...]  
> From my point of view the specification of a <length> for a <track>  
> element should be completely optional in the next version of the railML  
> schema. If necessary, the specification of a specific length definition  
> depending on the usecase can be forced by semantic constraints. What do  
> you think about this?

thank you very much for sharing your idea about making the track length optional with the community.

Indeed, the question is essential. When making <track><length> mandatory we followed discussion about the problem of locating elements (NetEntities) in the topology network without intrinsic coordinates, but with "positions". Without the information about the track's length, it is impossible to derive an intrinsic location of the element, which is being calculated as position/length and thus covers a range {0..1}. So, in order to make intrinsic coordinates optional, we decided to make <length> mandatory.

How to continue in future?

If there is a strong demand by the community, we have to think about the mandatory <length> once again. Everybody is invited to provide their thoughts on the topic...

Thank you very much and best regards  
Christian

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