
Subject: Ambiguity of "line"

Posted by [Ferri Leberl](#) on Tue, 17 Dec 2019 11:36:04 GMT

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Dear All,

Recently, the TT-Developers stumbled over the ambiguous usage of "line":

In most cases it refers to a group of tracks as in

https://wiki2.railml.org/index.php?title=IS:line_trackGroups

In the semantics of <https://wiki2.railml.org/index.php?title=RS:electricalCouple> it refers to the contacts of plugs

In <https://wiki2.railml.org/index.php?title=RS:valueLine> it's a table row

In <https://wiki2.railml.org/index.php?title=TT:lineNumber> and in

[@line](https://wiki2.railml.org/index.php?title=TT:trainPart) & [@trainLine](https://wiki2.railml.org/index.php?title=TT:trainPart) it refers to a transport line in the sense of route or number.

Therefore I would like to invite you to a discussion, how to label the different meanings as to avoid any misunderstandings.

Yours, Ferri

Subject: Re: Ambiguity of "line"

Posted by [Thomas Nygreen](#) on Tue, 17 Dec 2019 14:45:27 GMT

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Dear Ferri,

Dear all,

The use of line as referring to a group of tracks (a railway line) from A to B is common, and the primary word used for this purpose.

For connectors, such as in couplers, contacts is the usual term for the number of pins etc. In cables there can be multiple conductors. A signal can be sent using multiple channels.

In tables, we should use row.

As far as I am aware, "line" is not commonly used in English for a train service, unless referring to the infrastructure (railway line) as a metaphor for the trains running on it. I suspect that [@line](#) and [@trainLine](#) are false friends from German. Instead there are train services operating on a railway line.

Best regards,

Thomas Nygreen - Common schema coordinator, railML.org
