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Subject: Values of attribute @dir

Posted by [christian.rahmig](#) on Mon, 17 Sep 2018 10:15:13 GMT

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Dear Torben,

here comes answer part 2...

Am 12.09.2018 um 14:57 schrieb Torben Brand:

> [...]  
> @dir denotes the validity of the objects as seen from the  
> direction of travel by the train. Or as it says similar in  
> the gradientChange wiki: "dir: This defines the validity  
> of gradientChange along the track."  
> [...]  
>  
> Possible values are:  
> • none: gradientChange has no direction restriction.  
> • up: This denotes the direction from  
> the <trackBegin> to the <trackEnd> (increasing  
> relative position values).  
> • down: This goes opposite to up (decreasing  
> relative position values).  
> • both: gradientChange is valid in both directions.  
> • unknown: gradientChange is restricted to a certain  
> direction, but this direction is not known.  
>  
> First having the value "none" and "both" make no sense. This  
> as they both cover the same thing (glass is half full or  
> half empty)

I think you are right. The value "none" does not make much sense since all possibilities of direction validity are covered by the other values:

- \* up (for elements being valid in up direction)
- \* down (for elements being valid in down direction)
- \* both (for elements being valid in both directions)

And if an information is unknown, you may leave this optional attribute empty.

So, we may put it on the agenda for a next railML version? By the way, in railML 3, the new attribute @applicationDir has been implemented exactly that way - with only three values. Instead of "up" and "down" the terms "normal" and "reverse" are being used, but the meaning is the same.

@all: Do you have any examples where you use direction enumeration values "none" or "unknown"?

Best regards  
Christian

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