



## Guidelines for Participants

Each participant needs to create an account, and register to challenges. Students can participate to a challenge as part of a course project. A challenge includes a description of the context and objectives. It provides a supervised dataset for training. Competitors submit the result of their algorithms on the test set and get a score and a ranking according to a specified metric.

Each course may restrict the list of challenges according to its topic. Project reports can be uploaded within a challenge, to be accessible to the course's Professor. According to our free knowledge exchange policy, reports will also be available for scientists and challenge providers who ask for them at the end of the challenge season. Softwares are not publicly disclosed and belong to their authors.

All participants are encouraged to write a report as a scientific article, analyzing and explaining the performance of their algorithms, and providing references of published articles used in their work.

Challenges will be presented orally at Ecole Normale Supérieure (Amphi Rataud, 45, rue d'Ulm, Paris) on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Although attending these presentations is not necessary to participate, it is an opportunity to meet the challenge providers. Challenge winners will be given the opportunity to present their algorithm in an oral session, at the end of the season in June. Dates and places will be given in the “News” section.

### 1. Account creation

- Click on the SIGN UP link (navigation bar);
- Enter your email address and a password with letters and numbers;
- Select the case “Participant”;
- Enter your name;
- If there is a problem with your form, a red message will appear at the top of the page;
- Check your mailbox (including your spam folder) for an email from Challenge Data;
- Click on the link contained in the email to activate your account;
- Once your account is activated, you can start playing!

### 2. Your personal space (My Space)

- Under “Description tab”, you can manage your personal information, including the pseudonym that will be displayed in the rankings.
- Under “My Participations” tab, you can track all the algorithms that you tested.
- Under “My Challenges” tab, you can check which challenges you are registered in.

### 3. Register to a challenge

- Click on the CHALLENGES link (navigation bar);
- Select the challenge you want to participate in;
- If you participate as part of a specific course in an affiliated academic program, you must select the appropriate course in the list. Note that you cannot affect multiple challenges to a given course, so choose this challenge it carefully.
- If you want to team up with another participant, you may enter his or her email address to send an invitation.

### 4. Submit your predictions

- Once you are registered to a challenge, you can submit a prediction file from the “Current ranking” tab.
- This prediction file must be a .csv file with the correct number of lines and columns, otherwise it will produce an error. The typical format for the prediction file is:

```
ID, Target
IDXXX, Value
...
IDXXX, Value
```

- Along with the prediction file, you can enter the name of the algorithm you used and the description of the parameters. These pieces of information will remain invisible to the other participants, so do not hesitate to fill them precisely. They will be stored in your personal space, allowing you to track your progress on this challenge.
- You cannot submit more than two files every twenty-four hours on each challenge.

### 5. Encouraging multiple participations: the Meta-Challenge

- In addition to the potential rewards offered by the challenge providers on each challenge, the Challenge Data organization will reward the best participants over the whole competition.
- To enter this meta-challenge, it is necessary to participate in all the challenges offered during the season.
- Participants which have achieved consistently very good scores in most of the challenges will be declared winners of this meta-challenge.
- The winners will be offered a prize during the closing ceremony in June 2017.