1. Minimum running times have been provided, i.e. BareDrivingTimes in TimeTable. Could we also get minimum dwell times, minimum layover times, minimum rolling stock connection times, and minimum composition change times?

* Minimum dwell time is technically around 30 seconds, however in practice this depends a lot on how many passengers (un)board the train. Passenger counts are not given in the competition due to confidentiality, however you can assume trains are busier in peak hours between 7:00-9:00 and 16:30-18:30.

Minimum layover time (I think you mean when trains change direction) is 4 minutes.

Rolling stock connection have no minimum time (if my assumption of what you mean by layover time is correct).

Composition changes take at least 1 minute.

1. The provided First\_cut\_ExampleData includes a scheduled platform track. Instead, other files (Timetable and RealisationData) do not have it. Can we expect to receive updated files with platform information or do we need to work without it?

* You need to work without it

1. DriverSwitches: Some unexpected train numbers exist in this list, e.g. 6,17,31,54,22. Could it be that these numbers represent something else instead of trains?

* Something went wrong here. We will provide a corrected file.

1. Weather data is missing. Can we expect it still?

* Yes.

1. Will any info about the type of a disruption be provided? E.g. failed train, failed infrastructure (signal, switch).

🡪 No.

1. What will be the actual input for our prediction model: realised traffic (all train activities) before the given prediction time instance (e.g. before 8:00) OR only the last recoded train activities (e.g. Train 812 departed from Utrecht Central at 7:58)?

* All train activities before the prediction time will be given. For prediction time 8:00 all data before 8:00 will be given. For 12:00 and 16:00 all data in the interval 10:00-12:00 and 14:00-16:00 will be given.

1. Related to 6. Could you provide an example file with the format of the missing days that we will get to demonstrate our algorithm (for a day we already have)?

* We don’t really understand your request? Do you need an answer form for one of the days you already have?

1. Related to question 6, what is the expected output: the predicted delays at the first activities after 8:20 or the predicted delays (and possibly locations?) of trains exactly at 8:20?

* We expect the output in the provided answer form format.

1. Data Dictionary suggests that TrainCharacteristic coded NVT is not relevant. In TimeTable some train activities are defined as NVT and thus missing PlannedTimes. How should NVT actually be treated? Shall we remove NVT activities? In particular, we see two cases:

a. In TimeTable some train lines (e.g. 2225 on 4-9-2017) have multiple activities defined as NVT.

b. Some train lines have NVT activities only at one Location. E.g., 4012 (and many other of series 4000).

However, in both cases, when looking at RealisedData, it seems these NVT activities exist regularly and that the corresponding trains visit these Locations normally.

For example, for trainnumber 4012, we find:

in TimeTable:

"5-9-2017",4012,"E","Wm","N","K\_A",49,"","NVT","A4000","153","SLT10",140

"5-9-2017",4012,"E","Wm","N","K\_V",49,"","NVT","A4000","","SLT10",140

in RealisedData:

"2017-09-05","4000E","SPR",4012,"Wm","A","2017-09-05 07:03:00","2017-09-05 07:04:12",1,1,""

"2017-09-05","4000E","SPR",4012,"Wm","V","2017-09-05 07:04:00","2017-09-05 07:04:45",0,-1,""

* NVT means that at the time of the planning the train characteristic is not known / relevant. The activity itself is still very relevant. You could use the realized train characteristic found within the realization data to reason about the type of train it turned out to be.

1. Related to question 9. Assuming that NVT activities are removed, then some rolling stock connections and driver switches may become impossible.

For example, for RSConnection 1-725-Gn-80281, activities of 80281 at Gn (and also Gerp, Gnl, Hrn, Onn) are marked NVT, so we do not consider them. Therefore is it correct to assume that this connection cannot be realised?

Activities from TimeTable:

"4-9-2017",80281,"O","Gerp","N","D",2,"","NVT","","113","IRM6",140

"4-9-2017",80281,"O","Gn","N","V",1,"","NVT","",,"IRM6",140

"4-9-2017",80281,"O","Gnl","N","D",3,"","NVT","","33","IRM6",140

"4-9-2017",80281,"O","Hrn","N","D",4,"","NVT",,,,

"4-9-2017",80281,"O","Onn","N","D",5,"","NVT","","139","IRM6",140

🡪The NVT indication is about the train characteristic. Not about the activity, so you should not remove these activities.