**User Agreement**

**Summary**

The Zooniverse is a suite of citizen science projects operated by research groups in several institutions which support scientific research by involving members of the public - you - in the processes of analyzing and discussing data. Data from these projects is used to study online community design and theory, interface design, and other topics. This document describes what will happen to your contributions if you choose to contribute and what data we collect, how we use it and how we protect it.

**What you agree to if you contribute to the Zooniverse**

Projects involving the public are needed to enable researchers to cope with the otherwise unmanageable flood of data. The web provides a means of reaching a large audience willing to devote their free time to projects that can add to our knowledge of the world and the Universe.

The major goal for this project is for the analyzed data to be available to the researchers for use, modification and redistribution in order to further scientific research. Therefore, if you contribute to the Zooniverse, you grant us and our collaborators permission to use your contributions however we like to further this goal, trusting us to do the right thing with your data. However, you give us this permission non-exclusively, meaning that you yourself still own your contribution.

We ask you to grant us these broad permissions, because they allow us to change the legal details by which we keep the data available; this is important because the legal environment can change and we need to be able to respond without obtaining permission from every single contributor.

Finally, you must not contribute data to the Zooniverse that you do not own. For example, do not copy information from published journal articles. If people do this, it can cause major legal headaches for us.

**What you may do with Zooniverse data**

You retain ownership of any contribution you make to the Zooniverse, and any recorded interaction with the dataset associated with the Zooniverse. You may use, distribute or modify your individual contribution in any way you like. However, you do not possess ownership of the dataset itself. This license does not apply to data about you, covered in the Privacy Policy.

**Legal details**

By submitting your contribution to the Zooniverse, you agree to grant us a perpetual, royalty-free, non-exclusive, sub-licensable license to: use, reproduce, modify, adapt, publish, translate, create derivative works from, distribute, and exercise all copyright and publicity rights with respect to your contribution worldwide and/or to incorporate your contribution in other works in any media now known or later developed for the full term of any rights that may exist in your contribution.

If you do not want to grant to us the rights set out above, you cannot interact with the Zooniverse.

By interacting with the Zooniverse, you:

* Warrant that your contribution contains only data that you have the right to make available to us for all the purposes specified above, is not defamatory, and does not infringe any law; and
* Indemnify us against all legal fees, damages and other expenses that may be incurred by us as a result of your breach of the above warranty; and
* Waive any moral rights in your contribution for the purposes specified above.

This license does not apply to data about you, covered in the Privacy Policy.

**Privacy Policy**

In addition to the contributions you make towards the scientific goals of the Zooniverse, we collect additional data about you to support and improve the operation of the project. We also conduct experiments on the design of the website that we evaluate based on your reactions and behavior. This Privacy Policy describes what data we collect, how we use it and how we protect it.

We respect the privacy of every individual who participates in the Zooniverse. We operate in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as well as with United Kingdom and United States regulations regarding protection of human subjects in research.

**Data we collect**

*Identifying information*: If you register with the Zooniverse, we ask you to create a username and supply your e-mail address. Your e-mail address is not visible to other users, but others will see your username in various contexts. Notably, your username is associated with any classifications or other contributions you make, including on comments submitted to Talk, the discussion forums hosted by the Zooniverse. You may optionally provide your real name to be included when we publically thank participants, e.g., in presentations, publications or discoveries.

*Usage information*: We also monitor how people use our website, and aggregate general statistics about users and traffic patterns as well as data about how users respond to various site features. This includes, among other things, recording:

* When you log in.
* Pages you request.
* Classifications you make.
* Other contributions, such as posts on Talk pages.

If you register and log in, the logs associate these activities with your username. Otherwise, they are solely associated with your IP address. In order to collect this data, we may use software such as Google Analytics that collects statistics from IP data. This software can determine what times of day people access our site, which country they access the websites from, how long they visit for, along with technical details of their computer (browser, screen type, processor).

**What we do with the information we gather**

Usage information is collected to help us improve our website, and for the following reasons:

* Internal record keeping.
* If you agree, we will periodically send email promoting new research-related projects or other information relating to our research. Information about these contacts is given below. We will not use your contact information for commercial purposes.
* We will use the information to customize the website.
* To conduct experiments regarding the use of site features.

**What is shared with third parties**

We will never release e-mail addresses to third parties without your express permission. We will also never share data we collect about your use of the site unless (a) it cannot be associated with you or your username, and (b) it is necessary to accomplish our research goals. Specifically, we can share your anonymized data with research study participants, other researchers, or in scholarly work describing our research. For example, we might use one of your classifications as an illustration in a paper, show some of your classifications to another user to see if they agree or disagree, or publish statistics about user interaction.

If you choose to give us a `Publishable Name' on registration, this is available to research teams in projects you have participated in for purposes of giving credit for your work in published papers and elsewhere.

Contributions you make to the Talk pages are widely available to others. Aside from the above, information is held within our secured database. Passwords are hashed rather than being stored in plain text.

**How we use cookies**

In some areas of our site, a cookie might be placed on your computer. A cookie is a small file that resides on your computer's hard drive that allows us to improve the quality of your visit to our websites by responding to you as an individual.

We use cookies to identify which pages are being used and improve our website. We only use this information for statistical analysis purposes, they are not shared with other sites and are not used for advertisements.

You can choose to accept or decline cookies. Most web browsers automatically accept cookies, but you can usually modify your browser setting to decline cookies if you prefer. However, if you choose to decline cookies from the Zooniverse then functionality, including your ability to log-in and participate, will be impaired.

Acceptance of cookies is implied if you continue to access our website without adjusting your browser settings.

**Where we store your data**

We use Amazon Web Services so we can quickly and reliably serve our website to an unpredictable number of people. This means that your data will be stored in multiple locations, including the United States of America (USA). Amazon is a participant in the Privacy Shield program developed by the USA Department of Commerce and the European Union (EU).

Our mailing list server, which contains a copy of subscribed email addresses and no other personal data, is hosted on a virtual private server with Linode in the UK.

**Security measures**

Members of the research teams are made aware of our privacy policy and practices by reviewing this statement upon joining the team. We follow industry best practices to secure user data, and access to the database and logs are limited to members of the research group and system administrative staff.

**Removing your data**

Due to the way in which we archive data, it is generally not possible to completely remove your personal data from our systems. However, if you have specific concerns, please contact us and we will see what we can do.

**When we will contact you**

If you do not register, we will never contact you. If you do register, we will contact you by e-mail in the following circumstances:

* Occasionally, we will send e-mail messages to you highlighting a particular aspect of our research, announcing new features, explaining changes to the system, or inviting you to special events.
* We might also use your email to contact you for the purpose of research into our site's operation, and we might ask for additional information at that time. Any additional information will be held consitently with this policy, and participation in such studies is entirely optional and participating or otherwise will in no way affect your use of the site.
* We might contact you with a newsletter about the progress of the project.

You can 'opt out' of communications from any project or from the Zooniverse as a whole at any time by visiting the Zooniverse [unsubscribe](https://www.zooniverse.org/unsubscribe) page.

**Advice for Volunteers Under 16 Years Old and Their Parent/Guardian**

Please note that it is the parents’/guardians’ responsibility to explain the user agreement and privacy policy in simple terms to their child if signing up under 16s. There is no minimum age for signing up children as Zooniverse would like to encourage public engagement with research for all ages, though the platform may be more suitable for older children. Parents and guardians must supervise children if they are contributing to any message boards.

**Further information and requests**

The Data Controller is the Department of Physics, University of Oxford. For a copy of the information we hold on you please contact the project team at the address below:

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Oxford Astrophysics  
Denys Wilkinson Building  
Keble Road  
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