TODAY

High: 77°F/25°C
Low: 64°F/18°C

TOMORROW

High: 77°F/25°C
Low: 64°F/18°C
Yes, it's the same

Demo Presentations

Remember that, starting at 10:20 and until lunch break there will be a demo presentation in the Menjador room in the ground floor. Check the titles and abstracts of today's demos in the booklet. Coffee will be served there as well during the coffee break.

Quiet Working Room

During Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Room 18 will act as "quiet room". Go there to read, think, and work with your laptop - and recharge it. It is located in floor 1, beyond rooms 10+12+14.

Lunch+Coffee

The cafeteria inside Casa de Convalescència, besides providing your caffeine fix if you miss the coffe break, offers a good menu at lunch time - places are few, though.

Wandering Wishes

Feel free to walk around the UNESCO heritage Hospital de Sant Pau complex, and watch the old hospital pavilions in Modernist style. Now that most patient services have been moved to a the new, largest building, many of the older buildings host medical research groups.

First poster session at the Old Town

The poster session for papers presented today will be held at 19:20 at the Institut d'Estudis Catalans, a 17th century building located in the Old Town. The exact location of the building is marked on the map that you will find in the program booklet; the closest metro station is Liceu, in L3 (green); metro station Catalunya is almost as close. The poster session will be combined with a buffet-style dinner and drinks. After or before the poster reception you can walk in the nearby area of Raval Nord or the Gothic quarter. Check the tips of the day in this newsletter for more information and suggested routes.

SVMs+Deep Architecture = Our Eyes?

Hierarchical Learning Machines & Visual Cortex Neuroscience

While kernel machines have proved their efficiency as statistical learning techniques, they do not have the deep architecture that can be found in the brain. Taking inspiration from the neuroscience of the visual cortex, with which he is familiar, Prof. Poggio will attempt to develop mathematics for hierarchical kernel machines.

On various animal photo recognition problems, such machines proved as accurate as humans. Furthermore, the mistakes they did followed the same patterns as human mistakes. Could it be that our brain works just like a hierarchical kernel machine?

Prof. Poggio is one of the founders of computational neuroscience, and one of the most cited in the field (h-index > 90, from GoogleScholar). Among his numerous notable works, one that relates to today's kenote is the introduction of regularization theory to computational vision. Prof. Poggio co-directs the Center for Biological and Computational Learning at MIT. Since he received his Ph.D. in Theoretical Physics in 1971, the list of his awards and responsibilities has grown too long to be enumerated here - an inconvenience that one might find flattering, to say the least.

Practical Tips

Check the map with restaurants recommended by the locals: http://www.discovermachine.com/maps/1128. Avoid restaurants in La Rambla and other touristic places displaying pictures of paella, sangria and tapas: they will be bad and overpriced.

Want a coffee? A café solo is a shot of expresso, a tallat or cortado is a shot of expresso with a bit of milk, and a café con leche is a cup with half of expresso and half of milk. Need something stronger? Ask for a carajillo, a mix of expresso and liquor (cognac is the default, and rum, whisky and Baileys are also popular).
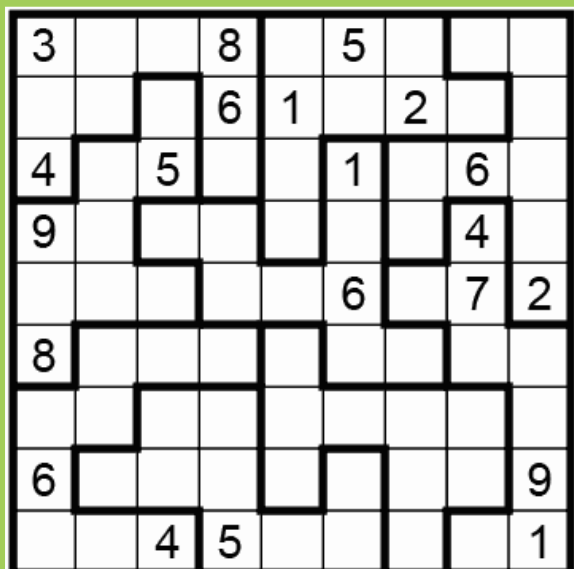
Statiscal Puzzle

I have two children. One is a boy born on a Tuesday. What is the probability that the other one is a boy ?

13/27 ! If we enumerate the 27 possible outcomes. First, the 2 children may both be boys born on a tuesday. If not, then either the 1st one is the boy born a tuesday or the other child if it's a boy and 7 if it's a girl. In the end we have possibilities for the day of birth of inds. In both those case, there are 6 possibilities, and 1+(2*6)+(2*7)=27 involve 2 boys.

Tetris sudoku

Try your best on this one. Those who find it too easy will get toroidal sudokus next :-P

Tapas

A tapa is a small appetizer that is served with a drink in bars of some regions of Spain. Hopping from bar to bar having a drink and a tapa in each bar is known as tapeo. Tapas can be of a wide variety of ingredients and style. Barcelona has plenty of bars offering tapas where you get a whole meal in small dishes.

Classic tapas are patatas bravas (fried potatoes in spicy sauce), local olives, boquerones (anchovies marinated in vinegar), tortilla de patatas (a thick Spanish potato omelette), croquetas (croquettes) of ham or cod, wild mushrooms, the famous pimientos del Padron (fried small green pepppers, most are not spicy but there are occasional kickers), calamares a la romana (rings of battered clamari), chorizo, iberian ham, meatballs with squid, and a large etcetera. In today's tapas places we also find modern tapas invented by the chefs, which combine fresh ingredients in sophisticated and tasty ways. Good tapas bars are Ciudad Condal, Tapaç24, bars in La Boqueria, Els Tres Porquets, Quimet & Quimet, bar Sureny, among many others.
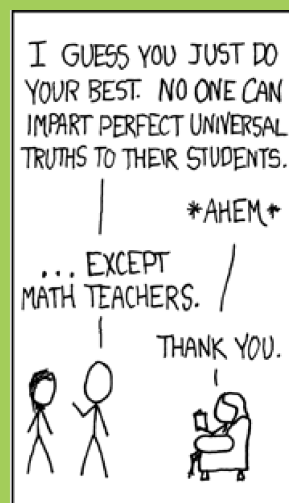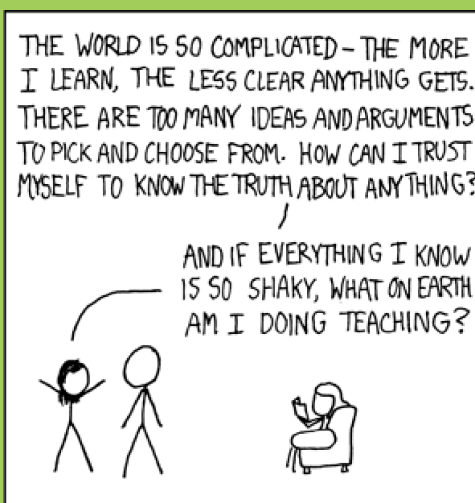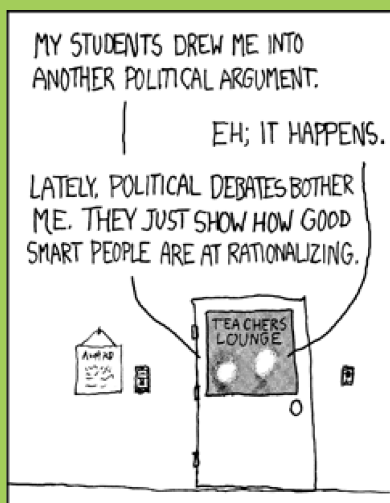
La Rambla and Ciutat Vella

Right in the center of the city, the street called La Rambla is well known for walking around and getting into Ciutat Vella (the old city). It is a favorite tourist attraction, with flower sellers, street performers, La Boqueria market, the Liceu Opera house, among many other attractions. La Rambla connects Plaça Catalunya with the monument of Columbus overlooking the the Port Vell (old harbor), and separates the neighborhoods of El Raval and Barri Gòtic.

This evening's poster session takes place at Institut d'Estudis Catalans, at the center of el Raval. El Raval has witnessed a significant renovation since its dark decades before the 1992 Olympics, and it is today a very diverse and lively neighborhood where culture, urban tribes and immigration coexist. Some of the interesting areas in Raval include MACBA and CCCB, the centers for contemporary arts and culture. Nearby is also the beautiful market of La Boqueria, which offers the richest variety of fresh food to the city.

The Barri Gòtic, in the other side of la Rambla, is the old city of Barcelona which was built on and around the old Roman town of Barcino. This part of the city is an attraction in itself with the Cathedral, the old Roman walls, Plaça Sant Jaume, Plaça Reial and many other landmarks. Next to the

Gòtic in the opposite side of La Rambla is the area of El Born, featuring the magnificent church of Santa Maria del Mar, surrounded with numerous shops, bars and restaurants. The Passeig del Born is a great area to hop around.