

TODAY



High: 25°C/ 77°F

Low: 17°C/ 62°F

TOMORROW



High: 25°C/ 77°F

Low: 19°C/ 66°F

Need Cash ?

There is an ATM machine inside Casa de Convalescència: it's well hidden under the main staircase, behind the xerox machines.

Transportation

Public transportation (www.tmb.cat) consists of a network of subway, buses, trams and trains. We recommend buying a T-10 card—sold in subway stations and tobacco shops (estanc in catalan)—which gives you 10 rides using all means of transportation for 7.95 euros. Most services stop at midnight (some buses stop before).

Transportation Strike

On tuesday 21st, the Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat may be on partial strike, 7am-9am and 6pm-8pm. This affects you if staying at Hotel Catalonia Castellnou: Check your bus options at www.tmb.cat, from "Castellnou, 61" to "Sant Antoni Maria Claret, 171", and view "bus only" itineraries. The best combination seems to be bus 68 + bus 15, taking about 50 minutes.

Internet

Connect to network "Casa Convalescència". Open your browser and enter the username "ecml" and the password "wifi2010". Note that the username appears incorrectly as "ECML" in the booklet.

Security

Barcelona is safe. However, pick pocketers in the city center and the subway are waiting for tourists. Be aware.



Welcome to Barcelona !

Barcelona is the capital of Catalunya and the second largest city in Spain, after Madrid, with a population of 1,7 million inhabitants and 3 million in the metropolitan area. It is a major center for finance, commerce, international trade, arts, culture, education and tourism, and one of the most livable cities in the world. Founded as a Roman city, it has since then been one of Europe's principal Mediterranean ports, and with the 1992 Olympic games it became as one of the world's most attractive cities. The native language of Catalunya is Catalan (a Romance language with about 10 million speakers), and Spanish is understood and spoken universally, making Barcelona a truly bilingual city. Over two thousands years old, there is not just one Barcelona, but several. **Ciutat Vella** (the old city) offers the

visitor a wide range of routes to follow and reconstruct the history of Barcelona by starting at the Roman walls, moving to the medieval streets of the Gothic Quarter and going to the popular promenade know as **La Rambla**. **L'Eixample** (the expansion), characterized by a grid of square blocks with chamfered corners, was built from 1860 to 1930 to connect the city with the neighborhoods of **Gràcia**, **Les Corts** and **Sants**.

Barcelona has a lot to offer. Art, culture and revolutionary architecture. Excellent food featuring fresh products from the Mediterranean. Fashion. Nightlife. Live Music. World-class football. Parks. Beaches. Plus, this week Barcelona celebrates the festival of **La Mercè** with hundreds of activities and events. Check the ECML PKDD website for pointers.

Human scientists are getting old-fashioned !

Mining experimental data for dynamical invariants - from cognitive robotics to computational biology

Today at 6pm, Pr. Hod Lipson will uncover perspectives on how to automate scientific research: discovery of natural principles such as laws of momentum is a task that computers can handle.

Given raw data from the study of a physical system, it is possible to define algorithmically what makes a correlation found in the data insightful. The algorithm that will be presented managed to discover dynamical invariants such as Hamiltonians and Laplacians, by automatically searching data from various simple and complex mechanical systems. It is even capable of integrating the knowledge it uncovered to increase its discovery rate.

So let's all listen about how we can put physicists, biologists and co. out of a job ;-) except for computer scientists and AI researchers, of course, who will still be needed---for now).



Pr. Hod Lipson is associate director of Cornell University's Computational Synthesis Lab (CCSL). He holds his Ph. D. from Technion and has received numerous awards including the NSF Career and Darpa awards. He defines his research interests by the two following questions: (a) Can we design machines that can design other machines? (b) Can we make machines that can make other machines?

xkcd :

Causation

(see xkcd.com for more xkcd comics)

Sudoku :

Each Square, each row and each column can only contain a digit (1-9) once. Each circle is the sum of the numbers on the arrow.



Award Ceremony and Welcome Reception

The opening of the 2010 edition of ECML/PKDD takes place today at 18:30 in Casa de Convalescència, at Aula Magna in the first floor. The Best Paper Awards and Discovery Challenge Awards, this year on the topic of Web quality content, will be given to winners during the ceremony. The opening will be followed by the invited talk of Prof. Hod Lipson, after which you are invited to the welcome reception held in the garden of the same Casa de Convalescència. There will be food, drinks and musical entertainment brought by a band of four musicians.



Eating in Barcelona

One thing Catalans are very proud of is *pa amb tomàquet* (literally bread with tomato), probably because it is simple and exquisite when made with good ingredients. Take a leaf of crusty bread, cut a ripe tomato in half, rub the tomato against the bread, and top it generously with virgin olive oil and a pinch of salt. Catalans eat it at home everyday, for breakfast or for a light dinner, combined with ham, cured meats, cheese, omelette, *escalivada*, anchovies ... or just on its own. You'll find it everywhere: when you ask for a sandwich the bread will



be amb tomàquet, and when you go for tapas you'll get it as a side dish.

Without any doubt, the most eminent partner of *pa amb tomàquet* is the iberian ham (*pernil ibèric* or *jamón ibérico*). Curing ham is a serious

regions of the south of Spain. At the entrance of la Boqueria Market, in La Rambla, you'll find a couple of stores selling top-quality ham (you can buy vacuum-sealed packets and



enterprise in Spain. The quality of the ham depends on the type of pig, the pig's diet and the process for curing the meat. The most exquisite hams are from Iberian black pigs fed exclusively with acorn (hence the term *jamón ibérico de bellota*), and are produced in Guijuelo, Jabugo and other

bring them home). In most restaurants it is usually offered as a tapa or appetizer, though the quality of the ham served may vary from excellent to mediocre.