

Ecole Thématique « Aspects Géométriques de la Relativité Générale » Thematic School on Geometric Aspects of General Relativity

Montpellier, Sept. 28 – Oct. 1st 2015

Coming to the Thematic School

All talks and activities will take place on the Science campus of the University of Montpellier. Montpellier is a medium size city in the south of France, close to the Mediterranean Sea, about 850km south of Paris. The Science campus is located in the northwest side of the city, and is easily accessible from the city historic centre in approx. 20 minutes by public transportation.

Arriving by plane

Montpellier Méditerranée Airport is a small international airport which offers direct connections from/to the main French cities and some European cities such as Brussels, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt (Hahn), Leeds, London (Gatwick), München, Roma and Rotterdam. There are frequent flights to Paris CDG and Orly airports, which makes the city easily accessible worldwide.

To get to the university from the airport, take the bus shuttle and get off at *Place de l'Europe* (endpoint station). From there, take the tramway heading to *Mosson* (line L1, blue livery with white swallows) and get off at *Université des Sciences et des Lettres* (30 min. journey). The city centre as well as the main train station are on the same tram line, 10 min. away from *Place de l'Europe*.

Arriving by train

The main train station in Montpellier is known under the name of *Montpellier St Roch*. High speed trains (TGV) run every hour or so between Paris *Gare de Lyon* station and Montpellier in 3h20 min. Frequent trains (not all of them being high speed, unfortunately!) also run from most French cities as Bordeaux, Lille, Lyons, Marseilles, Nice, Strasbourg and Toulouse. Barcelona is also connected directly to Montpellier by high speed trains (2h40min).

From the train station, getting to the heart of the city (Place de la Comédie) is a less than 5 minute short walk (look for the exit heading to « Centre Ville » and walk in front of you through the busy Rue Maguelone). To get to the Science campus, take the tramway line L1 heading to *Mosson* and get off at *Universités des Sciences et des Lettres* (approx. 20 min.).

Please take care! There are 4 tram lines stopping at the train station and platforms are scattered all around the square in front of the station's main entrance. Make sure that you board the L1 line (blue livery with white swallows) and not some other line (confusion is likely here as some L3 trams, decorated with green and orange underwater motives, also head to *Mosson*, but they do not pass through the university!)

From the *Universités* tramway station to the campus

When getting off the tram, walk to the crossroad and turn right on Avenue Fliche. You should see in front of you a large and easily recognizable red sculpture (see below), some 200m away. The main entrance of the campus is located a few steps after the sculpture, on the right. If you're lost and try to follow signs on the streets, look for directions to «Université Montpellier II» or «Université des Sciences et Techniques du Languedoc» (these are the previous names of the Science University: as Montpellier Universities have just merged a few months ago into a single University, roadsigns still indicate the old names). Asking people in the streets for «le beignet et la saucisse rouge» (the red doughnut-and-sausage) might sometimes be a better (and much more efficient) idea!



Easily recognizable!