

Modern Complex Analysis and Operator Theory and Applications, IV El Escorial (Madrid), Spain, June 17-21, 2009

Important general information for participants

CONFERENCE SITE: Our conference venue is about 56 kilometers (35 miles) Northwest from downtown Madrid, on the borderline of two twin towns: El Escorial (on the lower grounds) and San Lorenzo de El Escorial (on the higher grounds), an old historical town featuring the impressive Royal Monastery of San Lorenzo. There is no clear separation line between the two towns.

"Casa E. San José" is within the El Escorial city limits, located at the crossing of two avenues: Avenida de los Reyes Católicos (Number 12) and Avenida de Felipe II (pron. "Segundo" in Spanish), uphill from the train Station in El Escorial and downhill from the Monastery in San Lorenzo. A large park "La Casita del Príncipe", limited by a stone wall, is across the street. A printable map is available at the conference home page.

TRANSPORTATION. By car: take the highway A-6 and then exit 47(El Escorial) and then go few kilometres on a secondary road. At some point you will have a choice of going either through El Escorial or to San Lorenzo de El Escorial, and both can take you to the residence. At "Casa San José" there is plenty of free parking space.

A taxi can take about an hour and may cost anywhere from 60 to 90 € per ride (not per person) from the airport, depending on the traffic. Some cabs may accept debit cards but you are normally expected to pay cash.

Public transportation prices are much more affordable and the trip from the airport to El Escorial can take a little over 2 hours. Tickets are usually payable only in cash.

You can take line 8 of the subway (metro) from the Airport to downtown (Nuevos Ministerios station) and then go to the train station located in the same building. Direct trains to El Escorial run frequently from there. If you are not arriving from the airport and wish to get onto this train elsewhere, it also stops at Atocha and Chamartín stations. From the train station in El Escorial it takes a further 8-10 minutes walk uphill to Casa San José.

Alternatively, you can continue by metro on line 6 from Nuevos Ministerios to the Moncloa station, exit the subway there and, without exiting the building, get on the bus 661 to El Escorial. Once it approaches the Monastery and turns left and downhill, the bus will leave you on the right-hand side of Avenida de los Reyes Católicos, a little downhill from the Chinese restaurant "Chen". The Residence is just a little below, on your left (about 1-2 minute walk).

ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION. Upon arrival, we ask you to kindly pick up your room keys and complete your registration, whether you have to pay any fees or not. The Residence consists of two buildings and the correct one is easy to identify since there is a sign on its outside wall (a large metal plaque) "Casa E. San José".

Once inside, look for the Registration Office (with our conference poster) close to the Reception Desk. It is this office where you will get your room keys from the organizers (not from the Residence staff at the Reception), together with your conference materials and where you can make your payment.

We apologize for having to charge you upon arrival and in cash only as we do not have any other means at our disposal and act as intermediaries between the Residence and the rest of our group.

Important: Please note that during the first two plenary talks on Wednesday, June 17 in the evening (6-8 PM, approximately), the Registration Office will most likely be closed.

ACCOMMODATION AND SERVICES. For all those participants who have requested so, full room and board will be provided for the entire duration of the conference. Coffee breaks and the special conference dinner on Friday night are normally included in the registration fee.

Important: The residence only deals with groups (and during the events held there) and hence does not rent rooms on an individual basis. Thus, if you are arriving before June 16 at noon or leaving after June 21 at 11:00, please note that one cannot rent rooms there for extra days nor can the organizers book them for you.

If your travel plans have changed suddenly and you may arrive later or leave earlier, let us know at your earliest convenience and we will try to arrange a lower price for the room and board package for you.

The residence provides some hotel-type services: double rooms in single or double occupancy with private bath and shower, towels and soap, daily cleaning of rooms, and some additional basic services like vending machines, small TV lounge and a public phone at the entrance. We hope you will find it quite clean and comfortable in general.

Important: The following items are NOT provided in the rooms: TV, individual phones, hair dryer, beach towels and shampoo.

The residence has a small swimming pool and, given the pleasant weather this year, it is likely that it can be used both by us and by other groups who will be there at the same time. If you are planning to use it, please make sure you bring your own beach towel since the house rules forbid taking the standard bath towels from the rooms to the pool.

MEALS. The following applies equally to the participants and accompanying persons.

The residence will serve fixed menus for our group each day, except on Friday night. Each meal will consist of two or three courses, followed by fruit or desert. Water and wine will be served. We have made sure to get an upgrade of the usual house wine to a better one (courtesy of the organizers).

If you or your roommate have a vegetarian preference, then please also let us know in advance if you have not yet done so, in order that we can notify the cook as to how many vegetarian meals have to be made on each occasion.

We have been requested to ask you to please respect strictly the meal times: breakfast at 9 AM, lunch at 2 PM, and dinner at 9 PM. Being 5 minutes late is OK, but 15 is not as the times for meals are limited.

At the residence they are also particularly careful about planning the exact number of people attending each meal and not throwing the food away. Thus, if you are going to leave early or arrive late and have not told us so yet, or if on a particular day you are planning to take an evening off and give up on having dinner at the Residence, please try to let us know beforehand so that we know how many of us exactly will be at each meal.

SPECIAL CONFERENCE DINNER. It will be held on Friday, June 19, starting with a cocktail at 20:30, at the Victoria Palace Hotel, a large yellow building at Juan de Toledo Street, about 10-12 minutes uphill by walking from the Residence.

There is no formal dressing requirement for this dinner but it may be a good chance to wear your best shirt or dress. If that can help you to decide what to wear, pictures from similar dinners at the earlier related conferences are available at the conference homepage: go to the link History of previous meetings.

BANKING. Banks are usually open from 8:30 AM to 1:30 or 2 PM (13:30 or 14:00), Mon-Fri only (this is relevant if you want to cash a check or do currency exchange), but all offices have cash dispensers (ATM's) working 24 hrs a day.

WEATHER. Weather in El Escorial in June tends to be pleasant and dry, with few showers, and the temperature is usually several degrees lower than in Madrid capital. It should rarely go over 30 ° C (86 ° F) but nights tend to be cool so it might be useful to bring with you a sweater or a jacket.

For more detailed information, please visit the meeting page:

<http://www.uam.es/dragan.vukotic/conf-mecano09.html>

Thank you for helping to make this meeting a success. We look forward to seeing you and hope you will have a pleasant stay in El Escorial!