

Dear research staff, visitors and participants of the A. C. on Geometry and Dynamics of Integrable Systems,

As you may know, September 11 is the Catalan national holiday. The festivity commemorates the heroic resistance of the Catalan people during the long siege on the city of Barcelona by the Castilian and French armies during the Spanish succession war and until the fall of the city on September 11, 1714.

Since the end in 1975 of Franco's dictatorship, a 40-year long period in which Catalan language and culture were systematically persecuted, Catalans hold a demonstration on that day to assert and reclaim their cultural, historical and national rights. You may remember last year's 1.5 million people demonstration on the streets of Barcelona for the independence of Catalonia.

This year, the ANC (Assemblea Nacional Catalana), a grass-roots Catalan movement pursuing the independence of Catalonia, is organizing a human chain for the upcoming national day. The 400 Km chain that will cross the country from north to south has been inspired by the 1989 Baltic chain that preceded the independence of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The CRM would like to give our research visitors the opportunity to get first-hand information about the history of Catalonia and the important political process that is taking place right now. For this, we have organized a visit on September 11 to the city of Barcelona open to all CRM visitors and their families, free of charge. The visit will start in downtown Barcelona at 16:30 and will go through the Gothic quarter, sightseeing different historical landmarks while briefly explaining the history of Catalonia. The visit will last about two hours.

**Registration is necessary.** Please, confirm your registration by replying to this message with the number of people who will participate, before September 10.

Sincerely,

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*Suggested reading:*

*Col·lectiu Emma:* <http://www.collectiuemma.cat/> (in English and other languages)

*Assemblea Nacional Catalana:* <http://assemblea.cat/> (in Catalan)