

Dear DD16 Participant,

Before you depart for New York, we recommend that you study the conference website one last time for details that may help you plan your conference experience, your travel logistics, and any accompanying activities.

Registration and Payment

Participants who have not paid the registration fee (\$190 regular, \$110 full-time students) and who wish to use major credit cards to do so should download the form at the conference website at

<http://www.cims.nyu.edu/dd16/payment.html>

and return it by FAX prior to departure. NYU events staff are not equipped to take credit cards on site. Once on site, only cash and personal checks may be used to pay the fee.

Registration is in the ground-floor lobby of Weaver Hall beginning at noon on Wednesday, January 12. The conference kick-off is at 1:30pm Wednesday. Prepaid registrants can pick up their conference kits (in a zippered DDM.ORG logo nylon bag) from registration staff and obtain a receipt for their payments.

Registration fee includes: conference kit, banquet, and two evening receptions, early morning snacks and snacks during the morning and afternoon breaks, as well as a single copy of the conference proceedings, to be published by Springer Verlag later in 2005.

(Conferees wishing to order additional copies of the proceedings may do so at the conference bulk discount price of \$50 each, assuming that the order is placed simultaneously with the initial printing order from DDM.ORG. It does not have to be placed at registration; ample notice will be given when the proceedings is being assembled.)

Conferees wishing to purchase additional banquet tickets for an accompanying person are welcome to do so at the price of \$35 each. This arrangement should be transacted Wednesday afternoon, since the banquet restaurant needs advance notice.

Schedule, Venue, and Displays

The conference runs 3.5 days, not counting 1.5 days of pre-conference tutorials. If you are in the PETSc tutorial, you should have received a separate e-mail on your uptown arrival at Columbia; this message assumes you are intending to come to downtown to NYU.

Each morning and each afternoon, there will be two back-to-back 45-minute plenary talks and four 2-hour parallel sessions, either minisymposia arranged by participants in advance or contributed talk sessions, grouped roughly by topic. Each 90-minute or 120-minute session is surrounded by a break. All presentations take place in Warren Weaver Hall, 251 Mercer Street, on the NYU campus. Three of the presentation venues are on the ground floor (lecture rooms 101, 102, or auditorium 109) and the last is on the top (13th) floor, in the seminar room off the lounge. A bank of several elevators connects the top and bottom floors.

All presentation sessions will be moderated. In order to permit the possibility of participants dividing their time between multiple parallel sessions, the session chair is implored to keep introductions brief, to start their session on time, and to keep each of the five talks in each 2-hour

session on 24-minute intervals. Between projector plugging and question taking, this leaves a recommended length of no more than 20 minutes of presentation.

Standard projection equipment (for transparencies and laptop outputs) will be provided in each room. Nonstandard equipment needs should be mentioned to ddl6@cims.nyu.edu in advance, bearing the 20-minute limit per presentation in mind.

NYU expects to provide some combination of wireless access and guest accounts for conferees. The Club Quarters hotel has free high-speed wireless access. New York City's classic hotels have not uniformly entered the high-BW age; check with your hotel in advance.

Springer Verlag and SIAM will host book displays in the Weaver Hall lobby.

A group photograph will be taken Thursday afternoon at 3:30pm, immediately upon the conclusion of the plenary session. (Participants are encouraged to bring their own cameras and take less formal photographs, which will be solicited for the conference website.)

Receptions

The conference reception on Wednesday night and the poster session on Thursday night will be in the 13th floor lounge. The conference banquet on Friday night will be in Chinatown, on the east side of lower Manhattan, approximately one mile from NYU, at the Golden Unicorn. (You will receive a map to the Golden Unicorn.)

Travel in and around New York City

Travel in New York City is generally without a car, since finding a safe and legal place to park can take longer than the drive, itself. Barring a metro strike, mass transit is convenient and easy to use. It is moderately priced. Each point-to-point one-way ride, which may be made up of multiple contiguous segments on different transportation modes, costs \$2 if purchased individually, or if a dollar-denominated farecard is swiped in the magnetic-readers at subway entrances or in the front of buses to pay the fare.

Almost everything that a rider could wish to know about the MTA is available on-line, either at the MTA's official website, <http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us/>, or at numerous other commercial or public sites that purport to advise tourists and locals. If you use a Paper, folding maps of the integrated subway system and of bus systems for each of the boroughs (Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island) are complimentary and can be picked out of racks in airport terminals and at manned ticket booths. Individual buses often dispense folded copies of their own schedules.

The economics of metro and bus riding is as follows: Individual rides are \$2. Multiple dollar-denominated farecards may be purchased offering a 20% bonus in extra rides; thus a \$20 purchase provides a farecard with 12 (10 paid +2 bonus) rides. The value remaining on farecards is invisible but can be determined via swipe facilities in most subway stations. The remaining value is usually read out, as well, when passing through a turnstile. An unlimited-ride 1-day farecard can be purchased for \$7, which pays off for four rides or more in one day. An unlimited-ride 7-day farecard can be purchased for \$21, which pays off for more than 12 rides (relative to the \$20 purchase above) in one week. Farecards may be purchased with either cash (bills up to \$20 or change) or major credit cards. Receipts are available for credit-card purchases.

The Long Island Railroad and New Jersey Transit trains, which use Penn Station at 34th Street; MetroNorth trains, which use Grand Central Station; and PATH trains, which use the “Ground Zero” station at the site of the former World Trade Center, are NOT integrated into the farecard system. The “Airtrain” that connects Newark Liberty International Airport to New Jersey Transit trains is integrated into the NJT fare structure. However, the “Airtrain” that connects Kennedy International Airport to the Long Island Railroad trains is not integrated (though you may swipe your dollar-denominated MTA farecard for Kennedy). Both Airtrains cost \$5 per use, each way. Though confusing due to multiple fare collectors, the system generally works rather well, considering that the airports serve a metro area of 22 million people. Kennedy passengers and Newark passengers can expect to arrive at PennStation in midtown Manhattan in under an hour (resp., 45 minutes from JFK) upon clearing their air terminal, while barely going outside or negotiating cab, limo, or bus, for a total of less than about \$14 each way (and less on weekends, when the LIRR sells discounted “City Tickets”).

Transit downtown from LaGuardia airport is not as convenient, but cheaper. The M60 public bus, stopping at all terminals can drop passengers directly at Columbia’s main gate in about 45 or a little longer during peak traffic, or it can drop NYU-bound passengers at the Astoria subway station in Queens, from which the “N” and “W” MTA trains carry one to downtown Manhattan or at the 125th Street Station in Manhattan, from which the “A” and “C” MTA trains go downtown. The cost is just \$2. (Farecards and metal coin are accepted; however, dollar bills are not accepted as payment in the bus. There are machines that make change from bills inside the LaGuardia terminals. Of course, currency converters and news vendors will usually perform this, as well.)

A warning about all three New York airports: Their designs are old and they are made up of multiple terminals, arranged in a transit loop (3 at Newark, 4 at LaGuardia, and 9 at Kennedy). Be sure you know your terminal when ready to leave New York. Some airlines use more than one terminal (e.g., Continental at Newark; Delta at Kennedy and LaGuardia), so it is important to know both airline AND destination.

Of course, cabs (taxis) are available at all airports, and may be recommended if you are carrying heavy or bulky luggage, which can be inconvenient (though perfectly legal to carry) through turnstiles and on trains. DO NOT TAKE “gypsy cabs,” for which you will be solicited by well-dressed gentlemen inside airline terminals. Decline them without conversation, proceed to the curb outside, and queue up at official taxi stands. You will be handed a sheet of paper expressing fare calculations, and you may have either a metered or a fixed price ride, as determined by the route and direction. Cabs are much less economical than train/bus combos and drivers expect the rider to pay: bridge and tunnel tolls, peak period and airport surcharges, late-night surcharges, and a tip in the vicinity of 20% of the actual fare (not counting tolls, etc.). Drivers generally expect to be paid in cash. They are generally honest and very good at finding routes around bad traffic. The ride may be a bit harrowing and their English may not be very good, but New Yorkers are as proud of their cab fleet (with somewhat less justification) as Londoners are of theirs.

Taking a cab saves educating yourself on routing to your hotel upon arrival, and this may be worth the higher price, in terms of time not wasted in research or error.

Expected Weather

As of this writing, it appears that the Wednesday and Friday of the conference week have a chance of rain while Thursday and Saturday are expected to be partly sunny. The four-day

period is reasonably warm for January – well above freezing throughout, with Thursday’s high expected to reach 61F/16C. Even so, you will want to have an umbrella and to dress in layers when walking outside. If you want to blend in with New Yorkers, wear a lot of black.

One convenient way to update yourself on the weather forecast is to type NYU’s zipcode “10012” into the box at the top of www.weatherunderground.com.

Attractions of New York City

While the conference is technically first-rate, so are the cultural attractions of the City, particularly Manhattan, where the tourist elements of New York are concentrated. Conferees will receive a hardcopy of the convenient 100-page pocket brochure NYCvisit in their registration kits. It contains some useful maps, though there are other maps available freely and for purchase on the streets and in the transit system that may be better for many purposes. NYCvisit is accessible on-line (see the conference homepage) and is updated quarterly.

Please note that while the major opera companies, around which many people structure their visits to New York, are closed during DD16, there is a civic opera offering something truly unique on Fridays and Saturdays of January – a musical setting of *Claudia Legare*, based on Henrik Ibsen’s *Hedda Gabler*. See <http://www.dicapo.com/claudia.html>. Most other tourist highlights are available. Even the most expensive museums often have limited free entry periods each week. Search for “museum” at <http://www.nycvisit.com> and check your favorite museum for details. The famous Museum of Modern Art (<http://www.moma.org/>, MOMA – not to be confused with the even more famous Metropolitan Museum of Art) just reopened after a year’s closure in a new \$800M building that is receiving critical acclaim (http://www.newyorker.com/critics/atlarge/?041115crat_atlarge) – let alone the (“modern”) favorites restored to public viewing, such as Picasso’s *Les Femmes d’Alger*, which more or less launched modern art in 1907.

The Club Quarters hotel, where many of you are staying, is not far from the site of the former World Trade Center. Some tourists like to visit that site and make their own peace with one of the young century’s most defining events.

You can find Christo’s workers setting up “The Gates” in Central Park (<http://www.christojeanneclaude.net/tg.html>).

Of course, the baseball Yankees are not playing in the winter; you have to come back in April to boo them properly.

Please make knowledgeable preparations so that you may enjoy your short visit.

With best regards,

The organizers of DD16