

Welcome to

SurfaceTown

SurfaceTown is a virtual space containing four rooms/spaces in which you can in particular interact with other participants through video chats. Many activities are accessible through the SurfaceTown: recorded lectures, movie watching, interactive whiteboard and zoom calls.

SurfaceTown works better in Chrome on a laptop. However, I made it work on Safari or Firefox as well as on a tablet (although typing is difficult there).

Each of you is represented by a little character, that moves with the arrows of your keypad, with a name attached:

Please use your FULL NAME.

The point of the SurfaceTown is that you interact with other people, that wants to know who you are. You shouldn't use only first name since this excludes people outside your circle of friends or close colleagues. So Red Bunny or Carl Friedrich Gauss is not good (unless you are Carl Friedrich Gauss), François, George, Ma is not good either.

Feel free to organize events in this SurfaceTown, notably watching seminars from the list of online minicourses on the old fashioned TV sets in the mezzanine. For a longer event, contact Labourie and follow the roadmap in

<https://flab.perso.math.cnrs.fr/AnSur/Roadmap.pdf>

This roadmap is also accessible in the open books of the SurfaceTown.

The windows shows

- your character and the room where it is;
- the *list of other participants* at a given time in the SurfaceTown, a *calendar* of the events of the conference and a *chat window*. You can chat directly with someone, find them in the SurfaceTown, or on the contrary block them.

You directly interact with people by video chats within a small radius of your character, or all people present in a « private space ». You will be noticed when you enter a private space.

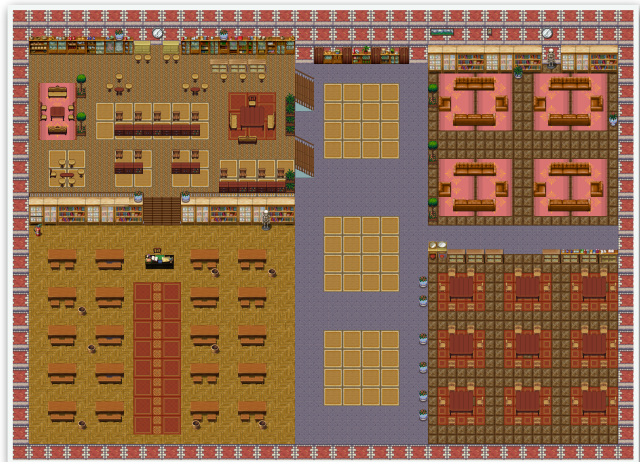
In SurfaceTown, you also interact with « objects » that may be documents, forums, video, exercise sheets, zoom calls, games and whiteboards. No magic swords though, although there is a magic pumpkin. As indicated in the screen, you have to press **x** on your keyboard.

Our SurfaceTown consists of four rooms or spaces

Sentosa beach, lecture hall, library and recitations rooms

The **library** is the main place where you will gather. The library has plenty of discussion spots, games, links to short videos and large private spaces represented by the carpets on the blue floor.

The old fashion TV sets (in the « mezzanine » top left) link to a repository of online minicourses. You can watch them at any time.



The **recitations rooms** is the place where small discussions can happen. Four of these recitation rooms are regular SurfaceTown private spaces with an interactive whiteboard. Two of them (Zoom A and B) link to zoom sessions that need to be opened first. **Contact Labourie if you need these sessions to be set up**

The objects here are open *books* linking to the roadmap to organize and event, interactive whiteboards and announcements boards. There is also a husky pet you might want to pet.

Sentosa beach has three private spaces, plenty of empty space to roam in and a useless Merlion. This is where you enter the SurfaceTown and some people might be around to help you at the help desk in the courtyard. The welcome tours start from there.



Randomly you will find *green books* with this document, *sign posts* that leads you to announcements of future conferences, and *open books* linking to the roadmap to organize an event. You may want to find the pumpkin.



The **lecture hall** is the place where you can link to a zoom **call**. There is only one object here, the room itself that launches the zoom call when you press **x**.

This room is only intended for larger conferences. Contact Labourie if you need the password for an event.

All that is pretty new to us, so please report your experience and all the glitches that you noticed, that is going to be very helpful to improve this space.

More general information about Gathertown here: <https://gather.town/docs>

This website was originally created for a program in January 21 in IMS-Singapore by Indira Chatterji, Thomas Koberda, François Labourie, Sara Maloni and Tengren Zhang. It was revived for a while as « GearTown ».

