

The Degree Confluence Project 2005



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Reach approached its confluence, not with the spirit of lofty ideals, but with the gusto of boys with toys. We raced towards our destiny with my hand-held GPS duct-taped to the steering pedestal with the confluence coordinates programmed in. Kevin would pilot the boat to within 100 yards then transfer navigation down below to Cole and me.

From topside, Kevin was yelling “One mile. One-half mile. 1000 feet. 500 feet. You got it!”

“Go south a little.” Cole would relay the message up. “Now back north, hold it there, yes, yes.” The digits on the GPS screen ticked down showing we were right on course.

“What’s happening down there?” Kevin screamed down.

“Hold it steady, steady, yes! Yes! We got it!”

Jim Bazemore, Kevin Craig and
Cole Bazemore

17 January 2003

29°N 118°W - Mexico: Baja California Norte

30.0 km (18.6 miles) E of Center of Isla Guadalupe, Baja Calif. Norte, Mexico

<http://www.confluence.org/confluence.php?lat=29&lon=-118&visit=1>



January 2005

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2 Cote d'Ivoire 2002 Perihelion
3 Bulgaria 2001 <i>last quarter</i>	4	5	6 Austria 2001	7 Czech Republic 2001	8	9
10 <i>new moon</i>	11	12	13	14 St Lucia 2002	15	16
17 <i>first quarter</i>	18 Saudi Arabia 2000	19	20 Belize 2004	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 French Guiana 2002	28	29	30 Norway 2000 Nigeria 2003 Sudan 2003 Syria 2004
31	<i>full moon</i>					



There were quite a few workers in the fields and the sight of two tall white men wandering through their fields created quite a stir, however everyone was quite friendly. We tried to ask for advice on the best path to take, however everyone wanted to know where we were going, and they seemed to have trouble understanding that we didn't know where we were going, just walking in a certain direction.

We asked the permission of the farmer, Md Waz Uddin, who was quite accommodating in allowing us to use his field.

I'm not sure he quite understood why we wanted to stand in his field and take photographs, however he was quite happy to let us.

Benjamin Williams and
Andrew Rankin

17 February 2004

24°N 90°E - Bangladesh

8.4 km (5.2 miles) WNW of Rabraban, Dhaka, Bangladesh

<http://www.confluence.org/confluence.php?lat=24&lon=90&visit=1>



The Degree Confluence Project began with the first visit by Alex Jarrett on 20 February 1996, to 43°N 72°W

February 2005

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2 <i>last quarter</i>	3 Finland 2001 Kenya 2002	4	5	6 Niger 2001
7	8 Brazil 2001 Chad 2003 <i>new moon</i>	9	10 Portugal 2001 Slovak Republic 2001	11 Dominican Republic 2001 Laos 2002 Vietnam 2002	12 Poland 2000	13 Netherlands Antilles 2004
14 East Timor 2004	15	16 Western Sahara 2004 <i>first quarter</i>	17 Bangladesh 2004	18 Panamá 2004	19	20 United States 1996
21	22	23 Colombia 2003	24 <i>full moon</i>	25 Ethiopia 2004	26	27 Greece 2001
28						



The confluence was now only 400m away but the mountains looked intimidating and I had less than an hour before it was time to turn around.

I decided not to give up, but boy it was hard work making my way up a steep slope with deep snow.

I carefully negotiated a very steep traverse which seemed to be prone to avalanches. On my hands and knees again I climbed onto what seemed to be another forest road. Finally, here it was. I reached the confluence!

As I documented the point I could hear the call of crows and the squeaks of small winter birds. An eagle or condor of some sort circled over head, possibly thinking the 'confluence dance' was a sick, staggering animal soon to be dinner.

Greg Michaels

7 March 2004

44°N 144°E - Japan : Hokkaido

5.5 km (3.4 miles) NE of Hiyoshi, Tokoro-cho, Tokoro-gun, Hokkaido, Japan

<http://www.confluence.org/confluence.php?lat=44&lon=144&visit=1>



March 2005

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2 Falkland Islands 2004	3 <i>last quarter</i>	4 Malaysia 2003	5	6
7 Malta 2004	8 Venezuela 2003	9 Cameroon 2002	10 Sao Tome & Principe 2003 <i>new moon</i>	11 Tanzania 2001	12 Benin 2002	13
14	15 Svalbard 2004	16 Madagascar 2003	17 <i>first quarter</i>	18 Myanmar 2003	19	20 Equinox
21 St Helena 2002 Libya 2004	22	23	24	25 <i>full moon</i>	26	27
28	29	30	31 France 2000			



We already knew from previous visitors that 51°N 12°E is located in a private garden so we stopped at the last house and tried to ask someone for permission to follow the path.

After a while we found the old fashioned door bell, used it and later the owner came and had no problem with our visit in his garden - yes, it even seemed that he was a bit used to people with a technical toy in their hands, watching out for crossing lines...

So we passed his ground on a path only a few meters away from the confluence, entered a small fenced area and found 51°N 12°E as our predecessors directly in front of a stone wall between blooming trees. There were no leaves on the trees yet so it was easy to get all "zeros" on the GPS!

Daniel Zwick and Christian Krämer

11 April 2004

51°N 12°E - Germany : Sachsen-Anhalt

11.8 km (7.3 miles) SW of Zeitz, Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany

<http://www.confluence.org/confluence.php?lat=51&lon=12&visit=5>



April 2005

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3 Bosnia/ Herzegovina 2004
					<i>last quarter</i>	
4 Angola 2004	5	6	7	8 Belgium 2000	9 Tunisia 2002	10
				<i>new moon</i>		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
					<i>first quarter</i>	
18	19 Cape Verde 2002	20	21	22	23	24
						<i>full moon</i>
25	26	27	28 Cyprus 1999 Iceland 2001	29 Morocco 2001	30	



After three hours of climbing and descending, we rounded the head of the confluence point's valley, with the actual point tucked in a tight valley just down the left side of a long ridge.

We took our pictures as quickly as the rapidly forming clouds allowed, delighted that the view to the east still held the mountains of Inca Wasi's Puncuyoc.

The rest of the day and half of the following found us hiking the beautiful path descending the Challhuayoc valley back to Yupanca, passing only one person the entire way - a grandmother carrying a sleeping, ill, baby boy back up the mountains to his mother after receiving medication and having the health clinic examine him - a twenty kilometer round trip journey in very mountainous country. Amazing country, amazing people.

Andy and Dana

9 May 2004

13°S 73°W - Peru : Cusco

7.4 km (4.6 miles) N of Rayancalla, Cusco, Peru

<http://www.confluence.org/confluence.php?lat=-13&lon=-73&visit=1>



May 2005

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 Jamaica 2001 <i>last quarter</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7 North Pole 1991	8 <i>new moon</i>
9 Ghana 2002	10	11	12	13 Argentina 2001	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Cambodia 2003	21 Ireland 2000	22
<i>first quarter</i> 23 Bermuda 2004 <i>full moon</i>	24	25	26	27 Croatia 2001 Philippines 2001 Slovenia 2001	28	29 Thailand 2001
<i>last quarter</i> 30	31					



After talking to locals, we decided to go back to Borynja and took the road forking east at the gas station. The road led us straight into Komarnyky village, where we learned that in order to get to the confluence we would have to cross 3km on foot through the mountains.

It started to rain and the children became bored, so we decided to try our luck with a dirt road leading to Bytlja. The road turned out to be not as bad as we had anticipated. The road got us within 150m of the confluence, which was located right across the river.

To get there we walked through private land. The owners (very nice folk) let us through. The confluence itself is located at the foot of a mountain.

Aleksei Aksimentiev, Victor Balandin,
Ira Balandina, Lera Balandina,
Lena Romanenko and Toma Romanenko

5 June 2004

49°N 23°E - Ukraine : L'vivs'ka Oblast'

29.8 km (18.5 miles) NW of Verkhnyachka, L'vivs'ka Oblast', Ukraine

<http://www.confluence.org/confluence.php?lat=49&lon=23&visit=1>



June 2005

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 Ukraine 2002	2 Estonia 2001	3 Japan 2001	4	5 New Zealand 2000
6 <i>new moon</i>	7	8 Burkina Faso 1999 United Kingdom 2000 Iran 2004	9	10 Netherlands 2000	11 Luxembourg 2000	12
13	14	15 Afghanistan 2004 <i>first quarter</i>	16 Botswana 2001 Kyrgyzstan 2004	17	18 Zambia 2001	19
20 Zimbabwe 2001	21 <i>Solstice</i>	22 South Korea 2001 <i>full moon</i>	23	24	25	26 Italy 2000
27	28 <i>last quarter</i>	29 Cuba 2002	30 Egypt 2001 Bahamas 2002 Swaziland 2002			



Going about 8 – 10km per hour in the proper direction, I enjoyed the beginning sunset on Tuesday evening. After about half the distance, I realized that my paddle had gone overboard and because I definitely was going to need it, once I reached the point, I was forced to go back and look for it!

Luckily it wasn't windy that day and so I found it within 10 minutes and was on my way again.

At 8:53 pm I had found this point in the almost perfect position. The GPS received 7 satellites with an estimated accuracy of 7m. My first sea-level confluence was located, even though the GPS showed -7.9m there.

About 100m to the south there is the official geographic crossing-point-marking of International shipping.

Hermann Grebner

20 July 2004

60°N 20°E - Finland : Ahvenanmaa

5.6 km (3.5 miles) S of Nato, Ahvenanmaa, Finland

<http://www.confluence.org/confluence.php?lat=60&lon=20&visit=1>



July 2005

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3 Mozambique 2002 Paraguay 2004
4 Rwanda 2004	5	6 Latvia 2001 Greenland 2002	7 Peru 2002	8	9	10
	Aphelion	<i>new moon</i>				
11	12	13	14 Lithuania 2001	15 Denmark 2000 South Africa 2000	16 Iraq 2003	17 Mongolia 2001
			<i>first quarter</i>			
18	19 Faroe Islands 2002	20	21 Canada 1999	22 Romania 2001	23	24
			<i>full moon</i>			
25	26	27	28 Georgia 2004	29	30	31
			<i>last quarter</i>			



24°S 67°W - Argentina : Salta

29.1 km (18.1 miles) NNW of Agua Blanca, Salta, Argentina

<http://www.confluence.org/confluence.php?lat=-24&lon=-67&visit=1>

On the night of August 12th we had six confluences already. Having reached San Antonio de los Cobres, we stayed there to sleep. San Antonio de los Cobres is located at 3770m above sea level, and although a nice motel was available some of the members and other guests were still fighting the lack of oxygen, feeling dizzy and weak.

On the afternoon of the 13th we reached the confluence. As not all the team was able to be in the spot that evening due to the effort of the walk at high altitude, we stayed at the Gendarmeria/Customs building of Sico that night, and repeated our journey the following day in the morning, when the temperature was more apt to allow our rested bodies to make it again all together.

Andres Pino, Eduardo Cinicola, Mauricio Surmani, PierCarlo Boltri, Federico Baldasarre, Adrian Cobelo, Pablo Goffin and Juan Cruz Goffin

13 August 2003



August 2005

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Albania 2003 Lebanon 2003	2	3	4	5 <i>new moon</i>	6	7
8 Macedonia 2003	9	10	11 Nicaragua 2003	12	13 <i>first quarter</i>	14 India 2001 Honduras 2003
15	16	17	18	19 Costa Rica 2001	20	21 Jordan 1999
22	23 Togo 2000	24	25	26 <i>full moon</i>	27 Hungary 2001	28
29	30 Qatar 2002	31 Lesotho 2002		<i>last quarter</i>		



We were visiting Jan's brother who is working for ACTED, a French NGO in Murghob. The area is really breathtaking. The town itself is located on a plateau about 3600m high and only reachable via the Pamir highway that winds itself over passes of up to 4600m. The next larger town is about 400km away, so people there do have a hard time. We decided to take off one day to try to get to the confluence. Our 20 year old but reliable Nissan Patrol took us through riverbeds and across the barren landscape up to 800m from the confluence. From there we had to walk through ditches and up a hill to the confluence that itself lies on a steep hill rise. Walking there was tough, as the air got really thin and breathing became a problem, so we were happy but exhausted when we reached the confluence.

Christian Hermann and Jan Engel

22 September 2004

38°N 74°E - Tajikistan

18.6 km (11.6 miles) S of Murghob, Kuhistoni Badakhshon, Tajikistan

<http://www.confluence.org/confluence.php?lat=38&lon=74&visit=2>



September 2005

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3 <i>new moon</i>	4
5 China 2000	6	7	8 Indonesia 2001	9	10	11 <i>first quarter</i>
12	13	14	15	16	17 Moldova 2003	18 <i>full moon</i>
19	20 Uruguay 2002	21	22 Tajikistan 2004	23	24 Papua New Guinea 2003	25 <i>last quarter</i>
26	27	28	Equinox 29 Australia 1992	30		



The track descended down to a river running through well-cultivated area. Vegetables, melons and corn were being harvested by several of the local people and my wife chatted to them and explained what we were doing. Not too sure they understood, but they were very friendly and welcoming nonetheless, and beckoned us to go about our business. We passed very old stone dwellings and graves as we followed the GPS to our target. I climbed a steep slope and approached to within 150m of the confluence, but was blocked by dense vegetation. Somewhat frustrated, I considered taking a reading and accepting that I might only get within 50m. However, not easily beaten I took off in the other direction only to find the dirt road we had seen from the other side of the valley. We followed it uphill and reached the confluence with ease.

Bob Biggart and Ayten Biggart

28 October 2003

38°N 28°E - Turkey

1.6 km (1.0 miles) SSE of Hamamköy (Izmir), Aydın, Turkey

<http://www.confluence.org/confluence.php?lat=38&lon=28&visit=1>



October 2005

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2 Belarus 2004
3 <i>new moon</i>	4	5	6	7 Mexico 2000	8	9
10 <i>first quarter</i>	11	12	13	14 Pakistan 2001 Kazakhstan 2002	15	16
17 <i>full moon</i>	18	19	20 El Salvador 2001	21	22 Algeria 2002	23
24 New Caledonia 2001 31	25 <i>last quarter</i>	26	27	28	29 Turkey 2000	30



That lake might look small in the photo, but the dam is 400 yards long and there are 2 million cubic metres of water there. It was such a relief to look ahead and see open sky and not more rock faces, that I set off with renewed vigour directly (well almost) in the direction of the point. I had to lose 300' of that hard won climb....

A long time ago, Britain was mostly covered with ice, and when it left, it left behind its mark. In the next 15 minutes I came across three parties of walkers, including one group just 300' from the confluence point.

It is a beautiful spot, and well worth the 2 hours and 3 mile trek in to find it.

Gordon Spence

22 November 2003

53°N 4°W - United Kingdom : Wales

7.1 km (4.4 miles) ESE of Beddgelert, Gwynedd, Wales, UK

<http://www.confluence.org/confluence.php?lat=53&lon=-4&visit=4>



November 2005

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2 <i>new moon</i>	3 Senegal 2002	4	5	6
7	8	9 <i>first quarter</i>	10 Azerbaijan 2002	11	12	13
14	15	16 Mali 2001 <i>full moon</i>	17 Ecuador 2003 Serbia & Montenegro 2001	18 Switzerland 2000	19	20 Nepal 2001
21	22	23 <i>last quarter</i>	24	25	26	27
28	29 United Arab Emirates 2001	30				



We started our journey in Moscow, drove into Kaluzhskaya oblast' and headed via Obninsk and Maloyaroslavetz for the Medyn'. We very much liked the Uspenija church (Assumption) in Maloyaroslavetz. Short of Medyn' we turned to the north and managed to travel past Sinyavino a couple of kilometers. Then we got stuck in snow and had to leg the last 2km across the field. Fortunately the snow was still superficial and we reached the confluence point quickly enough.

Mike Karavanov, Gennady Sharov and
Alexander Valdovsky

13 December 2003

55°N 36°E - Russia : Kaluzhskaya oblast'

1.2 km (0.7 miles) WSW of Sinyavino, Kaluzhskaya oblast', Russia

<http://www.confluence.org/confluence.php?lat=55&lon=36&visit=1>



December 2005

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 Antarctica 1999 Taiwan 2001 <i>new moon</i>	2	3 Oman 2001	4
5	6 Spain 2000	7	8 Mauritania 2001 <i>first quarter</i>	9	10	11
12 Russia 2001	13	14	15 <i>full moon</i>	16 Sweden 2000	17 Uzbekistan 2003	18
19	20	21	22	23 Namibia 2001 <i>last quarter</i>	24	25
26 Israel 2000	27	Solstice 28 Eritrea 2003	29	30 Chile 2001 Uganda 2002	31 Germany 1995 Sri Lanka 2001 <i>new moon</i>	



8°N 81°E - Sri Lanka

E of Jayanthipura, North Central, Sri Lanka

<http://www.confluence.org/confluence.php?lat=8&lon=81&visit=2>

I weighed three options — two involved climbing very high in a tree, then crossing over to another tree that got near it, and climbing down the other one.

The third option was to shimmy hand-over-hand across a thin tree that was semi-falling into the water. It got baseball-bat thin at the point where we could grab it, and was maybe 10 inches in diameter at the trunk. In between, it went from the base of the water across — about 15 feet of water we had to cross. It was a pretty flexible tree — good chance that it would bend down enough that we were shimmying with our feet dangling in the water. Even with our feet AND hands on the trunk, we still might be dipping our butts in.

Nevertheless, that's the path we chose.

Warren Apel, David Fausch
and Tricia Apel

1 January 2004



January 2006

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2 Cote d'Ivoire 2002	3 Bulgaria 2001	4 Perihelion	5	6 Austria 2001	7 Czech Republic 2001	8
9	10	11	12	13 <i>first quarter</i>	14 St Lucia 2002	15
16	17	18 Saudi Arabia 2000	19	20 Belize 2004	21 <i>full moon</i>	22
23	24	25	26	27 French Guiana 2002	28	29 <i>last quarter</i>
Sudan 2003 Nigeria 2003 Norway 2000 30 Syria 2004	31					31 <i>new moon</i>



78°N 14°E - Svalbard

9.2 km (5.7 miles) SW of Barentsburg, Svalbard

<http://www.confluence.org/confluence.php?lat=78&lon=148&visit=1>

We drove back towards Semmeldalen in beautiful weather, then as we dropped down into Passdalen we got enveloped by fog so dense that it was very hard to see the trail just in front of us. We drove very slowly through this area, alternating the leading/trailfinding job, but as we got lower into Grøndalen the fog got lighter, and as we got close to Grønfjorden we could see the sun shining through onto some of the surrounding mountain tops.

This was very fortunate, since we had to leave the trail system at this point to cross Grønfjorden and look for a way up the Heftye glacier. After some backtracking, we finally made it to within 500m of the confluence. We got off the snowmobiles intending to ski the remaining distance, but when we noticed that the crust was firm enough to carry a walking person, we simply grabbed the necessary gear and started up through the steepest parts of the glacier.

By now the fog and clouds had lifted, and we had a wonderful view all around the surrounding mountain tops!

Terje Mathisen and Einar Bolin

15 March 2004

The goal of the Degree Confluence Project is to visit each of the latitude and longitude integer degree intersections in the world, and to take pictures at each location. The pictures, along with a narrative describing the adventures it took to get there are then posted on the website www.confluence.org to create an organized sampling of the world.

The project was started by Alex Jarrett in February 1996 “because I liked the idea of visiting a location represented by a round number such as 43°00’00”N 72°00’00”W. What would be there? Would other people have recognized this as a unique spot? Another reason was that my friend managed to convince me to buy a GPS and I had to come up with something to do with it. I also hoped to encourage people to get outside, tromp around in places they normally would never go, and take pictures. I visited several confluences of my own and posted them to my personal website. Before long others found the site and visited confluences of their own, and it just snowballed from there.”

Moon phase and seasonal data are from the U.S. Naval Observatory data services website <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/> and are based on UTC. Countries and years shown on the month grids refer to the date of the first successful confluence visit for each country.

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For more information, visit the Degree Confluence Project website at www.confluence.org