# Critical Review

The following is a critical review of the presentation "Recent developments on reduced order modelling for flow mechanics" held by Joan Baiges on Wednesday, 23/10/19. The presentation is part of a series of coffee talks about technical subjects that require previous knowledge of the topic. The correctness and the understandability of the theory presented are not part of this review. The following is divided into an evaluation of the slides and the use of media and the presenter.

First of all, the slides showed a good use of colour. Too many colours can be distracting but most of the presentation was one coloured with a few exceptions used to highlight certain information. However, the amount of information per slide was too much. The use of full sentences and a lot of text shifts the attention of the audience from the actual explanation by the presenter to the text. Furthermore, each slide should show the title of the presentation as well as the name of the presenter. This gives the presentation a more professional look and clearly states who is responsible. Knowing the name of the presenter creates a more relaxed atmosphere and encourages questions.

The slides show a lot of graphs which help to visualize more complex topics. However, the axis labels of the graphs should be readable otherwise the graphs might cause more confusion rather than clearance. The slides also showed a lot of formulas that were given without any further explanations of the constituents of the formulas. In this case, the use of colours would be helpful to highlight certain elements of the formulas. To navigate through the slides a red laser pointer was used which, especially regarding graphs and slides that are full of information, helps the audience to follow the explanations. Nevertheless, a green laser pointer would be easier visible than a red one.

Regarding the presenter, more negative critic points than positive ones were taken. First of all, it is to mention that the presenter was talking to the screen most of the time. That means there was neither eye contact nor any other kind of interaction with the audience. While being asked questions, the presenter had his arms folded in front of his body which gives a defensive impression. This leads to the audience not feeling spoken to which again shortens the span of attention. Furthermore, even though the speaker was fluent in English he spoke with a slightly high-pitched voice giving the impression that he was not comfortable. Also, he spoke too fast with too few breaks. This made it difficult to follow the content of the presentation because there was no time to think it trough. On the other hand, when the presenter explained something, that was not written on a slide, he was more relaxed, held eye contact and spoke at a good pace. He should try to keep this up during the whole presentation.

The main critic points of this presentation are the high amount of information on each slide as well as the quick pace of the speaker and the lack of interaction. The negative critic points of this presentation prevail, however, the points regarding the slides are easily fixed. Keeping a steady and slow pace while speaking can only be reached with practise.

After all, if the audience knew a lot about the topic prior to the presentation it might be understandable. If not, however, too much information and not enough time to comprehend makes it difficult to understand all of the topics mentioned in the presentation. The speaker should improve the pace of his speaking as well as practise to speak to the audience rather than the screen. However, he was doing a really good job when speaking freely without using his slides.