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 the 23 October 2019. The Presentation was part of a lecture series, the lectures are a series in which complex mathematical interrelations are presented.The content of the presentation will not be part of this analysis, only the presentation of the content.

About the body language: The presenter never turned away from the audience and clarified the spoken word with slow hand movements. Unfortunately, he usually spoke to the slides and not to the audience. So one did not feel integrated into the lecture. However, it was positive that he stood relatively quiet in the room and did not distract unnecessarily from the content. He has also responded to questions but unfortunately, he has always crossed his arms. It would have been better if he had folded his hands in front of his chest or let them hang loosely.

Now to the main point of credence, his language. The expression is the most important part of a presentation. Therefore, it is even worse if the speaker cannot pick up his audience with his expression. He had a good language level, but he talked much too fast, so much of his information could not be picked up.

The slides were all good. A good mix of text and graphics. From the graphics the main statements were also clearly recognizable from a back row. The chosen colours were also good and mostly formed a good contrast to each other, which increased the readability considerably. Personally there were too many unknown formulas on the foils, but this can also be connected with missing previous knowledge.

After all, the expert audience seemed to have understood everything, so it could also be due to the lack of prior knowledge that the lecture was perceived as rather incomprehensible. 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.