

## **Critical Review – Author: Cristina García Albela**

*CIMNE Seminar 14/11/18*

*Soil crushing via DEM* by Marcos Arroyo

Being able to talk about a specific topic in front of people whose background is not known, is not an easy task. As more difficult the idea is, more clear should be the concepts which are going to be used to explain it and higher presence should have resources as pictures, photos or graphics, in this way it will be easier for the audience to follow the presentation line. This idea was the one that Marcos Arroyo followed to perform his *Soil crushing via DEM* presentation.

First of all, with regard to how the presentation was built, the presence of an index must be highlighted. The talk starts with a simple index (introduction, main ideas and conclusion or applications) that allow the audience to have a general idea about the topic. This index will be constantly used during the talk due to the talker is going to come back to it each time a section was finished. This is one of the typical tools that are used to make simpler to the listener to follow the talk and not to lose track of the conversation. Regarding to the slides format, they were well structured, using a compressible font of size and without being overload.

Many visual resources are used, such as pictures, photos and different types of graphics in order to fulfil the choice of the talker of trying to explain the theoretical and complex ideas in a more intuitive and visual way. In nearly every slide some photo or colourful picture appears, highlighting in those parts that talk about how the model is made or how the sand particles are represented, being a good way to catch the audience eye. Furthermore, a low number of equations were introduced during the presentation; the talker prefers to substitute them for graphics in which the results, as the validation of the method and its accuracy were represented. This must be considered a good choice, as it is known, in those talks in which the main thing are just equations used to boring and decrease the interest of the listeners.

The conversation tone made easier to follow it. Using a fluent and relaxed English, an important fact since people from all over the world were in the room, the talker try to put enthusiasm and pass to the audience the passion he feels. Anyone could realise that he knows about what he is talking, because if some mistake was made it was quickly corrected just by changing his words without getting nervous, a clear signal of confidence. Moreover, along the presentation some jokes were made which relax the atmosphere and make the audience to pay attention to it.

Finally, the initial idea to start the talk was used to end it, this is a widely used resource at scientific talks in order to maintain the main idea in the audience mind. Moreover, brief scheme as summary of the most important points was included.

It could be said that the talker had experience in talk in front of people as he know how to use in the correct way a larger number of the typical resources created to succeed and not make the listeners feel asleep during your conference.