
Communication Skills I

CRITICAL REVIEW:

"Modeling fluvial processes using the finite volume method" by Ernest Bladé

Pérez Lanfranco, Magdalena

This is a critical review about communication-related aspects on the seminar titled "Modeling fluvial processes using the finite volume method" given by Ernest Bladé at CIMNE on November 23rd, 2016.

The first issue that arose during the presentation related to the communicative side of it is that the speaker was expecting a different audience. He expected the public to have a deeper knowledge on what he was presenting and a certain background that would allow them to understand some points of his work.

The solution he proposed was that he would speed up or slow down the rhythm of the presentation according to the response he saw of the audience. That was a remarkable aspect when analyzing the communication skills of the speaker, as unexpected events like having an heterogeneous audience can always arise and it is important to know how to adapt.

The other important aspect to remark is that his presentation was too long for the time available and the rhythm imposed by the public. He had to decide weather if it was more important to slow down and explain better less content or, on the other hand, go faster and finish what he had prepared. The speaker chose to not finish the presentation, what I consider a good option taking into account the type of audience he had.

The format of the presentation was good. There was an index at the beginning, giving the audience a mental map of what the development of the presentation would be. It was not very detailed but it was enough. The slides were not too packed with text and the size of the font was readable. Maybe some comments or subindexes were not big enough to be seen from the back of the room.

There were a lot of graphical information: plots, images, graphs. That is a good way of presenting information in a presentation, as it summarizes a lot of data that can be explained orally without resulting in a crowded slide. The speaker even used videos and they showed perfectly. I consider that a remarkable aspect, as it is very usual to attend presentations where videos are not loaded correctly and it is not possible to show them.

Generally speaking, I consider it to be a good presentation. The speaker showed the skills necessary to adapt to unexpected events, the content was explained clearly and it was understandable even though my background did not relate much to the topic of the presentation. The slides were easy to follow and not too packed with information and the speaker's language skills were good enough for the topic.