

## **Review on the seminar “Reactive transport: numerical issues and challenges”**

On the 10th of October 2018 a seminar about “Reactive transport: numerical issues and challenges” was held by Jesús Carrera at the CIMNE institute of the UPC in Barcelona. In the following review of the seminar the external framework, the structure, the visual aids, the speech and the delivery are being analyzed.

Concerning the external framework two factors must be mentioned – the premises and the audience. The room chosen for the seminar was very full and hot. The audience was mostly made up by expert personnel from the CIMNE institute and technical students. Thus, the speaker was able to address the audience in technical language.

The structure was very clear. The presentation was divided into the introduction, body and conclusion. The introduction included the context, complication, question and a hypothesis. With the conclusion the circle to the introduction was closed and all matters of the introduction were addressed.

As visual aids mainly a PowerPoint-presentation but also a whiteboard was used.

The slides of the PowerPoint-presentation were partly very full of text and formulas. In addition, some graphics had a bad quality and should have been remade as a vector-graphic instead of using a photo. Moreover, the slides did not have numbers which impedes the feedback and questions after the presentation. The last negative point of the PowerPoint-presentation was the choice of Comic Sans MS as font. This font is not considered to be very professional or technical as the letters for example do not consist of straight lines<sup>1</sup>.

Positive features of the PowerPoint-presentation were the size of the font and the clear contrast (black on white) which had been chosen.

To explain formulas more precisely the speaker used a whiteboard which makes the understanding easier for the audience. However, within the last two rows in the room the writing was not clearly readable.

The speech of the lecturer was very detailed and technical. He took the different levels of knowledge within the audience into account by using many illustrative examples. As an example, the slide with the topic of “The stoichiometric matrix” can be named. He explained the difficult topic by means of a simple chemical equation of carbonate.

Concerning the delivery of the lecturer towards the audience a clear and loud voice was used. The speaker’s body language and his vivid language showed the audience enthusiasm towards the topic. The speaker made the presentation credible by having steady eye-contact with the audience and occasionally speaking to individuals directly. The communication took place in an interesting way as the speaker used humor now and then and sometimes even used colloquial language such as “Oh shit” or “I kill you” which put the atmosphere at ease at a right level.

A negative point of the delivery of the speech was that there was not not enough space in front of the projection which bore the consequence that the speaker occasionally prevented the view on the slides. In addition, the lecturer changed the slides at the computer and used his hands to indicate highlights on the slides. At this point a laser pointer would have been more professional.

All in all, it was very easy and interesting to follow the seminar. The lecturer shared his enthusiasm of the topic with the audience and put the atmosphere at ease with occasional humor. However, the Power-Point presentation and the conditions of the premises should be revised and improved for the next seminar.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://designforhackers.com/blog/comic-sans-hate/>