

Critical Review on the seminar: Modelling Fluvial Processes using the Finite Volume Methods, by Ernest Bladé - November 23rd, 2016

Student: MAILK ALI A. DAWI

The seminar was concerning the topic of how Finite Volume method is applied to model Fluvial Processes, obtaining description for not only the water flow but also another relevant dynamics such as sediments transport and turbulence. The scope was comprehensive with abundant amount of information, starting from the fundamental concepts of hydrodynamics and shallow water equations to a compact explanation of Finite Volume Methods and how it is implemented. Floods in some rivers of Spain were introduced as real life applications and they were discussed in a sufficient depth.

Despite the content of the seminar, it was organized in very systematic way, taking the audience step by step from the basic theory of Fluid mechanics and the well-known equations to the simulation of a flood in an existing city, while detailed explanation was given each time the speaker felt that he have to, by that it was insured that all the audience with their different back background and levels were satisfied.

Professor Ernest Bladé was outstanding presenter in very natural way. Even when he delayed because of some trouble in his devices, his performance was not affected, he talked with the audience until he was able to fix it. What is more important, is that how much it was noticeable that he is very interested in the topic, so he was making real effort of his messages to be received. Although, the audience was expected with higher level of knowledge, he did not hesitate to use the bored and explain lower level concepts, he even said “I am going to change the presentation and teach hydraulics”, and allowed to be interrupted by any questions. As one of audience, even that I did not come up with any question I felt like it was a friendly interactive environment more than a formal public talk.

Another interesting feature is the tools which are used to invoke the imagination of the audience. Whenever it was possible, a small simulation clip or figure was displayed to in order demonstrate the message. They were displayed in very effective way, each time a mathematical description or formulation of theoretical concept was discussed, immediately it was followed by a small video or a figure represents the result of applying this theory. Such technique did not only make it a consistent presentation but also very explicit. Some clips of flood simulation were played for several rivers in Spain, which was really interesting thing to be seen.

Although, it might be said that this seminar was too compact with too much information to be perceived, I believe it was very successful, even though I had no experience in the topic it did give me an interesting new sight. I am glad that I was one of the audience.