

# Communication Skills 1

## Critical Review

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A Critical Review of Ernest Bladé, November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016, '*Modelling Fluvial Processes using the Finite Volume Method*'.

Using hydrodynamics shallow water equations, finite volume method, Godunov method and Roe approximate Riemann Solver, Bladé and Flumen created a software product capable to predict the hydrodynamic behaviour of fluvial waters. Results of this novel approach inside the fluvial water field were explained on the seminar imparted by Bladé. To the extent that the so-called seminar is open to any person with no similar background to fluvial waters, the explanation of the approach was outstanding. However several points must be highlighted.

First point relates to punctuality, the lecturer should always arrive on time in order to prepare himself better for the incoming presentation and avoid the listeners to wait.

Second point is to improve the vocabulary, for a non-Spanish/non-Catalan speaker a starting line such as '*I thought this would be a more distinguished public and people who already know the bases of what I am going to talk to you, so depending on how I see things I will go faster or slower*' <sup>[1]</sup>. Both, as reviewer and listener, I found that sentence not wisely chosen and I may understand he meant it to be more likely as '*people who do not have a strong background on the topic of this seminar*'.

Third point is about the quantity and quality of the slides of the seminar. As listener it did amuse me the high quality and smart content Bladé was able to present on a very difficult topic for a broad public of any kind of background. He had really intuitive and self-explained animations which helped him on his explanation. Finally comment the ability to select the correct slides to explain and skip those which were too technical.

Fourth point is regarding the theoretical background explained in the seminar itself. It would be remarkable to point out that Bladé undertook the large and difficult theory and model discretization in a novel manner that for anybody with a few knowledge on Numerical Method and Finite Methods could straightforwardly follow. He did explain the basics and was not too concrete to keep the listener behind his explanations

Fifth point praises one of the major lacks of a close-fitting theoretical seminar. He was able to prove empirical and real-world data in order to corroborate that his approach was a useful tool in his research field. As a reviewer I find this point really crucial, due to the nature of many theoretical seminars, sometimes it can be perceived as a lack of practicality towards the day by day problems.

Sixth point is the lack of informations due to general conditions which make the namely fluvial theory no longer applicable. A question was raised by one of the members of the audience regarding when this method is no longer applicable and how Bladé could solve when this happens. His answer was somehow a bit uncertain on the solution.

In summary, the seminar imparted by Bladé was in general terms outstanding and his bright and simple explanation helped a lot for the listener to keep their eyes open and expecting during the whole lecture. Despite some deficiencies on the lecturer vocabulary or not wisely chosen words and the method limitations itself, it was a delightful seminar which helped the audience to improve their understanding on the subject.

## REFERENCES

1. Seminar's Video by CIMNE Campus: '*Modelling Fluvial Processes using the Finite Volume Method*' , [CIMNE's video](#); [minute\(0:32\)](#), [Accessed: 23/01/2017] .

