

Communication Skills 1: Critical Report

Topic: Modelling fluvial processes using FVM by Ernest Bladé

At the beginning of the presentation, there were some problems with the technics and the audience started getting noisy again. But the lecturer apologized and ensured that there was silence again before he started his speech.

At the introduction he mentioned which of the topics he is going to talk about and which points he will skip because of the different previous knowledges of the audience. It was important for him that all of the listeners could understand the subjects he was talking about. When he for example wanted to explain something about hydraulics, he did some spontaneous teaching in the basics on the blackboard because the audience wasn't familiar with the issue. After this explanation, he returned back to his initial point, so he didn't lose the thread. However, some formulas Mr. Bladé was showing were too complicated to understand shortly, although he spent long time with them, didn't just skip the slides and allowed questions during the whole presentation. One more slide with explanations referring to the formulas would have been helpful though.

In terms of content, Mr. Bladé concentrated on the FVM by making a comparison of different discretization models and reasoned why the FVM in this case was chosen. You were able to follow the path of his argumentation and he also used many examples from the region. Moreover, the lecturer used many videos for examples and explanations, which helped to understand the topic better. At the end of the presentation he had good answers to the questions asked by the audience, again with the usage of sketches on the blackboard. This also showed that he was common with the topic he presented.

The presentation style of Mr. Bladé was straight forward and understandable. He spoke most of the time fluently and very free, although English is not his mother tongue. He also tried to make eye contact with the audience all of the time he wasn't showing something on the slides. Doing that he unfortunately often touched on the screen, which then began to move around. This was a little bit confusing because on that point the information on the screen wasn't readable anymore. There also wasn't any numeration of the slides, which could have helped in orientation for asking questions after the presentation.

All in all Mr. Bladé held a good speech about the modelling of fluvial processes with the FV Method. He kept his presentation organized and tried to catch the interest of the audience. He also stopped in time and calculated as well some space for questions at the end. Although the audience had different previous knowledges, he was able to talk about issues which might have been heard by some listeners, but didn't forget those who weren't that familiar with the topic.