

Critical Review

Zahra Rajestari

This critical review is on the seminar held on Nov. 22nd 2017 under the title of “Audio Signal Processing for Dynamic Noise Mapping in Smart Cities” by “Francesc Alias”. The lecture was a scientific presentation explaining audio signal processing through definitions, examples, and experimental data collected. This essay describes the presentation given by Francesc from a critical perspective, expressing some positive and negative features of his way of presenting.

The most ineffective factor was overuse of text in slides. Most of the slides were too crowded and contained useless text which was neither readable for the audience nor explained by the presenter. Huge indefinite tables and numbers made some parts of the presentation more vague for the audience. The presenter could have at least given a better explanation regarding them. It should also be kept in mind that there were some slides in which he used graphs to present the data, which was a simple and easy-to-understand method.

The presenter looked at his watch too often to check the time. In my opinion, this was a sign of him being stressed out. This could cause the audience to get nervous and feel uncomfortable during the presentation after noticing that the presenter was rushing to finish.

I can mention as a positive point of the presentation that the slides were well organized. The titles related to each slide were accessible and they helped the audience get back to the topic easily and quickly. In addition, the use of an index table to show the changes in subtopics was quite useful to keep the audience focused on the topic. The way he began and ended each part of the presentation was perfect as well.

Moreover, the graphs and figures used in the presentation were appropriate and relevant to the speech and were well constructed to transfer the information in a simple and fast way.

The part I liked most about the presentation was that he made perfect counteraction with the audience through question and answer to attract attention and transfer information more effectively. He also tried to keep eye contact thorough the whole presentation. His body language, gestures, and change of voice were most of the time relevant to what he was explaining. I believe the presentation would have been better if he had been prepared for how to react and what gestures to make during the presentation.

In conclusion, the topic was very attention-grabbing and I enjoyed the seminar a lot. The presenter was precise enough to transfer the ideas through proper expression. For the audience, I recommend that the presenter be better prepared in order to be able to manage his time more effectively and prevent rushing at the end. He could simply do that by not using as many slides containing unnecessary information. Additionally, more clarification could be used to make the presentation more understandable for the audience.