

**Last advances of the PFEM for coupled problems  
- Alessandro Franci -**

The purpose of this document is to perform a critical review of one of the seminars held at O.C. Zienkiewicz Conference Room during the course. The review is paying special attention in the presentation skills assessing different aspects of the message, the used channel or the language of the speaker.

Doctor Alessandro Franci is the speaker of the reviewed seminar and he has been performing his PhD thesis working jointly with *CIMNE* and *Politecnico di Milano* university in this topic for years. During the conference, he has exposed the topic about the actual state of the art of PFEM technique focusing on coupled problems. Coupled problems involve the prediction of real phenomena by merging at the same time fluid mechanics and structural mechanics interactions.

Due to the complexity of the topic and to be followed by the audience during the presentation, the speaker introduced very properly each part of the technique. He gave the least needed clues to understand each slide and adding meaningful pictures. Besides, in each new part of the presentation, the speaker self-questioned many times why was important doing this or that, and provided a lot of examples. The mix of simplicity, self-questioning and examples did that almost no one lost interest slide after slide.

It has to be highlighted something that does not happen so frequently on technical topics, which is to connect emotionally with it. This is because one of the milestones in the presentation was providing an example of a big performed simulation of the landslide of Vaiont in 1963 where lots of people died. The presenter dedicated some slides to introduce how this disaster affected Italian society and how nowadays PFEM technique could predict almost perfectly what happened that day. Several media of the simulation was provided at different angles. I think it was a powerful example and in the same time it was like a break of technical matters in the middle of the presentation that helped to keep the audience fresh and ready for the coming.

The format of the visual support (the powerpoint slides) was in general well broken-down in each of their parts, providing a clear picture of what it was being explained at any time. The slides weren't too much filled with words or formulas and neither had too many pictures. The use of diagrams, dotted numeration, pictures and videos helped to follow the topic.

The used language was correct, kept technicalities as simple as possible but still being accurate. The path was steady, the voice was properly modulated to keep engage the audience. The body position and the way the speaker moved around the screen and stage was correct. He decided to move to point special aspects on the slide when needed or rested on one side if did not. One typical issue of public speaking is to read too much the slides or not looking at the audience, but the given speaker did not abuse that.

All in all, I think this seminar has been by far the more balanced one in terms of presentation skills and Dr Franci performed outstandingly as a communicator. From my point of view, there are no major negative aspects to be pointed.