

LAST ADVANCES OF THE PFEM FOR COUPLED PROBLEMS

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Critical Review

The seminar on “Last Advances of the PFEM for coupled problems” was conducted on 20th November 2019 by Prof. Alessandro Franci at CIMNE, Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya. The audience had a major proportion of Master students, having no prior knowledge about the subject, however, he delineated the topic with help of animations, equations and examples.

The professor began the talk by briefing about the topic to be covered in the presentation followed by listing some applications of PFEM such as natural disaster. But I think he should have explained the significance of PFEM in the beginning so that it could be less tiresome for audience, possessing no knowledge about PFEM, to get a gist of the title. However, after sometime when he introduced an animation on Vajont disaster sensitivity analysis on viscosity, a dam collapse in Italy, I was able to identify the significance of PFEM over other methods.

Further, I realized that he was not maintaining the eye contact with audience, maybe he was too much into the topic. Moreover, my understanding to PFEM was hindered due to incorporation of some complex equations into the slides. But he still maintained to grasp the attention of the audience with explanatory videos, slides and interactive gestures.

His presentation’s best part was to give conclusion after every sub-topic to facilitate the clear understanding and differentiation between the sub-topics. For instance, after completion of PFEM with nodal integration, he concluded about the Elementary PFEM (Mesh & no mesh) and Nodal PFEM (Re-mesh & no re-mesh) results. However, coherence was maintained during his whole talk to ensure a connection is maintained between subject.

In conclusion, his presentation provided an introductory glance to PFEM in a simpler manner and; his dedication to this research topic had sprouted up an aspiration to explore the potential of this field in me. Moreover, if he could have answered the questions such as what is PFEM and what is its importance at the starting point various hurdles to the understanding could have eliminated and students could extract more knowledge from this event.