

Seminar: Kratos Multiphysics, Objectives and Timeline

Communication Skills 1 – Critical Review

Federico Valencia Otálvaro

Master in Numerical Methods in Engineering

Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

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On Wednesday, 6th of November 2019, the seminar “Kratos Multiphysics, Objectives and Timeline” was delivered by Dr. Pooyan Dadvand at CIMNE facilities to an audience which consisted of approximately 40 people, including students and academic staff. The main purpose of the seminar was to familiarize the audience with the events surrounding the development and evolution of the Kratos software from its start (circa 2000) to the present day, using a timeline as an illustration tool. The presentation was one of the events of this nature which are organized and held at CIMNE on a regular basis.

From the moment the seminar commenced, Dr. Dadvand seemed friendly and approachable. Moreover, there were a lot of jokes throughout the presentation, both in the visual aids he employed and his speech. For example, one of his first slides showed a background image picturing the face of God of War Kratos (a fictional character from the widely successful videogame franchise “God of War”), making reference to the name of the software the presentation was about. Following the entertaining introduction, the visuals of the presentation remained engaging and balanced, never containing an excessive amount of text per slide and often including interesting visual elements such as images or GIFs. The timeline was very organized and well-constructed, as it was consistently spread out throughout the entire presentation, which indicates that Dr. Dadvand successfully documented events he has considered relevant during the time he has been working on the development of Kratos, since the presentation was constructed based on his personal experience. Furthermore, it was evident that the presentation was very carefully prepared, due to the fact that Dr. Dadvand interacted with his slides on several occasions and always seemed to know what would come on the following slides.

However, there are a few observations to be made. At no point during the presentation did Dr. Dadvand explain what Kratos Multiphysics is, as he apparently assumed that his audience was already familiar with his work. He also mentioned companies which have participated in projects developed with Kratos in the same way, expecting the audience to be contextualized beforehand.

During the first half of the presentation, the timeline was heavily focused on the members of the Kratos developing team, including information such as their starting and departure dates and even pictures of them. It is worth noting that some of the mentioned individuals were present at the seminar and a considerable part of the audience seemed to know them. However, this was not the case for the entire audience and the relevance of this content appears questionable as the rest of the audience might have felt that their presence was unnecessary in an event that seemed to have a private nature.

Overall, the seminar was well-prepared and visually appealing throughout its whole duration. Dr. Dadvand seemed very comfortable and confident as he had an extensive knowledge of the content he was presenting, while using a very friendly and entertaining approach due to the close relationship he appeared to have with certain members of the audience. Nevertheless, at some points during the presentation, necessary context was missing and the content sometimes failed to be relevant for some of the people in the audience, as Dr. Dadvand apparently did not estimate the possibility of having decontextualized individuals, e.g. first semester master students, to assist to his seminar.