

## A Critical review of: "Reactive transport: numerical issues and challenges"

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The 10th of October 2018 Jesús Carrera made the presentation "Reactive transport: numerical issues and challenges". He introduced the presentation with an interesting picture of crystals which worked well catching the attention of the audience. Unfortunately he continued by commenting that the rest of the presentation was going to be boring. Even though he said it in a somewhat funny way, it can be considered untactical since it may have given the audience an idea of a boring presentation and therefore a risk of lower attention.

To complement the presentation, Power Point was used as a presentation tool. A relatively common mistake with Power Points is that in some cases presenters tend to rely on the slides, and even at times directly reading from them. Carrera never used the slides in this manner.

Very few pictures were used in the slides and almost all text and formulas were in black. Using pictures and different colors for highlighting makes it easier for the audience to know the relative importance between things presented. Since the presentation was heavily based on formulas, including pictures directly corresponding to the formulas is a hard task. It would have helped however to have some pictures related to the topics, giving the audience visual input as well as the rational and logical input making it easier to understand and remember.

During the presentation Carrera spoke with a clear voice ensuring that the audience could follow the presentation without missing any spoken information. He also varied the volume and tone of his voice making it less monotonous which also makes it easier to follow a presentation in a focused manner. Carrera presented completely free from script showing that he has got a lot of knowledge about the topic and is comfortable in presenting, resulting in the audience trusting what is said in the presentation. Carrera was not completely stationary, instead he moved around during the presentation in rhythm to the phase of speaking which gives a feeling of calmness and control. During the presentation Carrera actively looked out in the audience, making eye contact while he spoke. This is an extremely efficient way to make an audience feel included resulting in a high attention level.

There was a lot of content covered in the presentation. Depending on the prior knowledge of the audience this can be either a good or a bad thing. In this case most of the audience were students, which made it hard to follow along without losing track. One of the most important parts of presenting, or communicating in general, is being able to adapt to an audience. Good communication means being able to successfully transfer a message to a receiver. By narrowing down the content to the more fundamental parts and explaining them thoroughly the students would have been able to understand more of the presentation.