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Review of seminar

This is a subjective review of the presentation about "Advances in Embedded Methods for CFD problems" by Ricardo Rossi. The following review is based on notes taken during the presentation, about the delivery of the subject, quality of the PowerPoint Slides as well as language used.

As a whole I liked a great deal of the presentation, and I feel that much of the material was well presented in a way most people could understand, even without much previous knowledge about the subject. I think the formulation and general use of words were well chosen even though the sentences sometimes seemed "messy" for a lack of a better word.

Some of the more general points I have to say about the presentation is that it in some ways seemed unrehearsed, and therefore many of the subjects became incalculable because of the presenter interrupting himself and changing words. In some cases, the pictures or figures did not help explain the message the presenter wanted to communicate, which was a shame. Especially the introduction seemed unrehearsed, although this could be because of nerves, since the rest of the presentation became more fluent and confident.

Another comment about the introduction is that the presenter mentions many subjects he is not going to speak about in the presentation. Mentioning many subjects one does not want to speak about can in many instances cause more confusion than necessary, and I feel this was the case.

When it comes to the use of PowerPoint slides, the presentation was mostly very good, and many of the slides were very understandable and easy to read, although there were mistakes too. After the 30" minute mark, the slides became more and more heavy with text and less understandable than in the start. This was a shame, since in much of the first half, the presenter used great figures and little, but understandable, text to explain his points to the audience. In some instances the presenter skipped forwards and backwards in the slideshow. This is a very bad idea to do, unless a question asked by the audience concerns another slide than the current, and should be avoided as much as possible. The presenters' use of the pointer was also very good, and it helped the audience to know which of the subjects or figures he was speaking of.

The presenter had chosen to use videos in his presentation, which can be a very good tool to explain and keep the audience focused and entertained. The execution of this was unfortunately very poor, since the videos did not work inside the PowerPoint. (Even though the presenter said it had been tested). By having to exit the presentation people easily lose focus, and the professionalism of an otherwise good slideshow disappears completely.

In general I liked the presentation very much, although there were mistakes or things that should have been differently. The font sizes were usually good, and the amount of text were almost always kept to a minimum. His formulation seemed also to be very good, and understandable for most people.

Assignment in Communication Skills 1

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As advice to the presenter I would say to relax and maybe rehearse the presentation once or twice more, and to go through the slides with an extra careful eye, to see if the font is too small or if there is too much text. Otherwise I think it was a very good and professional presentation.

Comment:

I might have misunderstood the assignment, since I thought it should be a review of his performance, and not a review of what he said. I apologize for the mistake, but do not have the time to change it now, so I hope the above will do. If not, please contact me, so I can change it.