

DIY students' lab

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(Very) Short summary

The “DIY students' lab” course is a Problem Based Learning course, with a learning-by-doing approach, with pedagogical objectives of team working and experimental skills. This course was initially developed for French undergraduate students at Paris Sud University. It was proposed to cadet students on the first week of August 2016. During this five day course, students learnt how to use the open-source microcontroller Arduino, build up an experimental setup from scratch to perform a physical study of their own choosing (study of the Seebeck effect, of measuring the Doppler effect for example), analyze their results, and present them in a 10 minute oral presentation in front of an audience. A survey was sent to the students to evaluate their impressions of the course, and showed that the vast majority of students would recommend this course to other students. From my point of view, this course went very well: all students succeeded in building and using their setup, and presented their results in a satisfactory fashion. The five day duration of this course proved to be neither too long nor too short. Even if some points could be improved (see detailed discussion), I am very satisfied by the way the cadet students handled the challenges of this course.



Students working on their experimental setups.