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Recent Development in the Physics III Laboratory Module at WITS

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Abstract content
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The Physics III Laboratory module at WITS has undergone several developments over the last three years. These developments include infrastructure upgrades, additions and changes to the curriculum, and development of new experimental activities. Infrastructural changes have largely centred on the development of the venue for the laboratories, with a state-of-the-art senior teaching laboratory having been designed and built in the last 18 months. Additions and changes to the curriculum were prompted by a student survey that was conducted at the end of 2011, which highlighted some of the deficiencies in the existing curriculum. Several teaching initiatives have been introduced that allow the students to develop skills that are vital for those who intend pursuing a career in experimental physics and related activities. This paper will report on what has occurred over the last two years, and will provide a strong case that the changes have improved the image of experimental physics among the 3rd Year students.

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