

THE H-ATOM SPECTRUM: NOT A CLASSROOM DEMONSTRATION ...

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The spectrum of the hydrogen atom is topic of every freshmen chemistry course and at the same time a first brush with quantum mechanics for many students. A picture of the four visible emission lines of the Balmer series is shown in probably every introductory Chemistry textbook, but only few students have likely seen those lines with their own eyes.

I will tell you about a simple in-class activity that allows the students to see those lines and can be done in large classes (I have done it in classes with up to 500 students) at low cost.