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The ultraviolet myth

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We have all heard the story; classical physics supposedly predicts that the intensity of emitted radiation from a blackbody diverges in the ultraviolet and that is why Planck introduced the quanta of light.

This story, however, is a myth fabricated long after the historical events. The ultraviolet catastrophe was not coined until 1911 and its origin dates back to 1905; five years after Planck's work.

In this presentation we will learn about the true course of events that lead Planck to quantize the energy of the atomic oscillators in a blackbody.

Collaboration / Activity

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