

Spectacular Sprites: Teaching Cutting Edge Research in Higher Education

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A fundamental challenge in higher education is motivating students for complex scientific subjects. The instructors' attempt to communicate with rigour and detail is often perceived by students that the subject is too difficult and inaccessible.

Sprites are newly discovered giant lightning discharges above thunderstorms with spectacular visual and audible effects. This paper describes how student motivation regarding sprites is enhanced using multi sensorial communication strategies that explore visual, audio, read-write, kinaesthetic (VARK) learning styles and real-world experience to increase the accessibility of the subject matter.