

HYDROGEN TRACES IN DB WHITE DWARFS

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Approximately 60 DB white dwarfs were observed for the ESO Supernova Ia Progenitor Survey (SPY, PI R. Napiwotzki). 55% of these show hydrogen traces and are thus classified DBA. This is a much higher fraction than found previously, but is due only to the high resolution, high S/N spectra obtained with the VLT. The most likely explanation for the hydrogen is accretion from the interstellar matter.