Tunneling with a Hydrodynamic Pilot-Wave Model

Nachbin, Andre; IMPA/Brazil

Droplets walking on a vibrating bath possess certain features previously thought to be exclusive to quantum systems. The early work of Couder and Fort (PRL 2006) presented this walking droplet as a pilot-wave system of the form envisaged by Louis de Broglie: a particle moves in resonance with its guiding wave field thus forming a classical wave-particle association. We here consider the pilot-wave dynamics in a confined one-dimensional domain. Specifically, we present a one-dimensional water wave model that describes droplets walking in single and multiple cavities. The cavities are separated by a submerged barrier, and so allow for the study of tunneling. They also highlight the non-local dynamical features arising due to the spatially-extended wave field. Results from computational simulations are complemented by preliminary laboratory experiments.