

Snakes and ladders: localized solutions of plane Couette flow

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(Submitted on 14 Dec 2009)

We demonstrate the existence of a large number of exact solutions of plane Couette flow, which share the topology of known periodic solutions but are localized in space. Solutions of different size are organized in a snakes-and-ladders structure strikingly similar to that observed for simpler pattern-forming PDE systems. These new solutions are a step towards extending the dynamical systems view of transitional turbulence to spatially extended flows.

Comments: submitted to Physics Review Letters

Subjects: **Fluid Dynamics (physics.flu-dyn)**; Dynamical Systems (math.DS); Pattern Formation and Solitons (nlin.PS)

Cite as: [arXiv:0912.2739v1](#) [physics.flu-dyn]

Submission history

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[v1] Mon, 14 Dec 2009 21:02:44 GMT (820kb,D)

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