



Internal solitary waves: propagation, deformation and disintegration

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Internal solitary waves are a common feature of the coastal ocean. In this talk I will describe, using model equations of the Korteweg-de Vries type, how these waves are affected by variable bottom topography. The scenarios range from adiabatic deformation, to disintegration and transformation into wave trains with very different features. Although the context is that of internal waves in the coastal ocean, the mechanisms involved are generic and can arise in many other physical contexts.